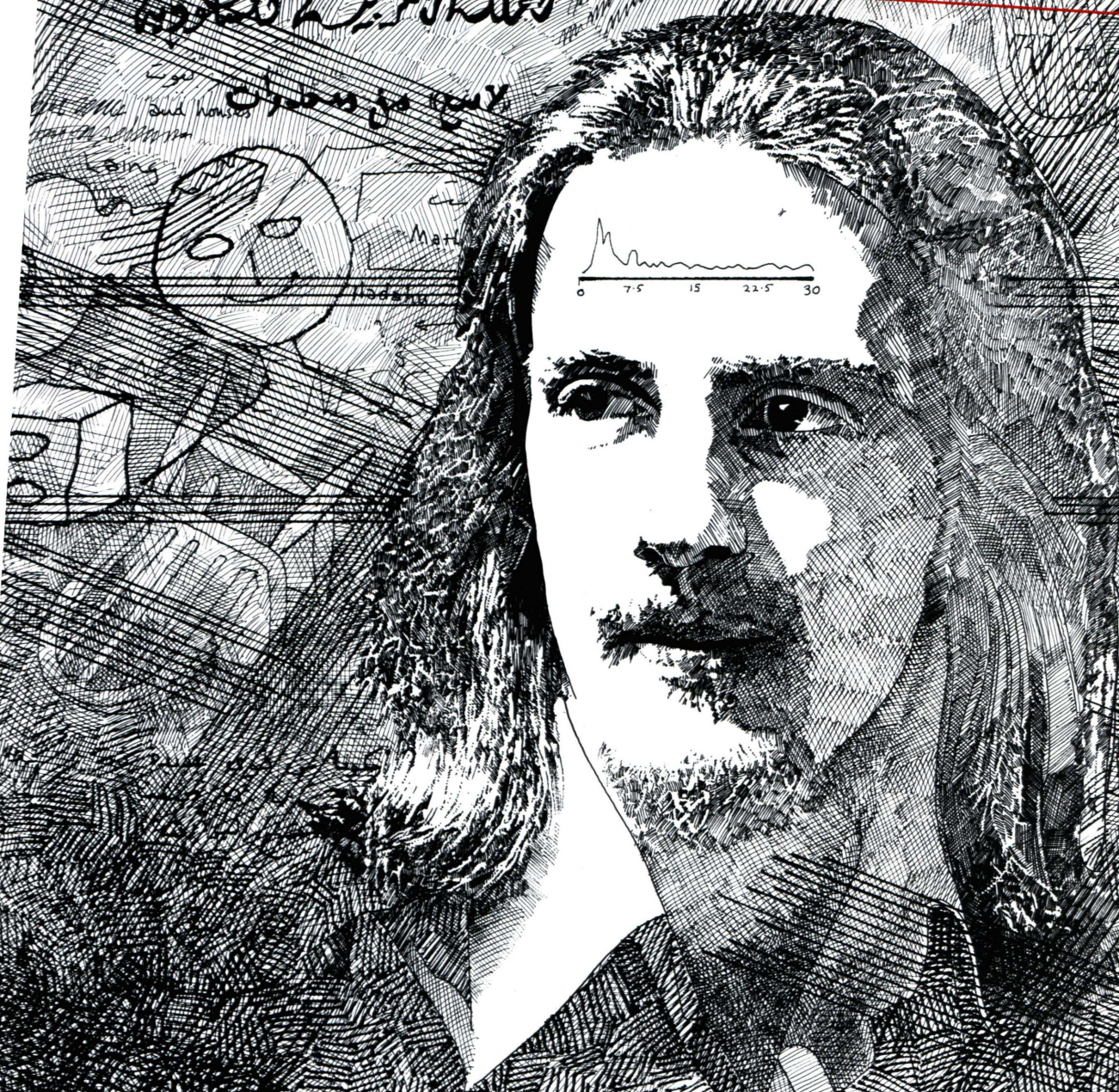


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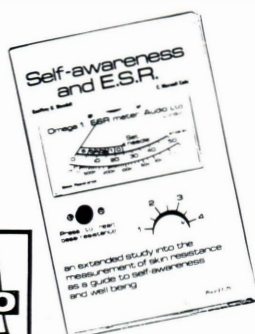
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and understanding the mind-body relationship

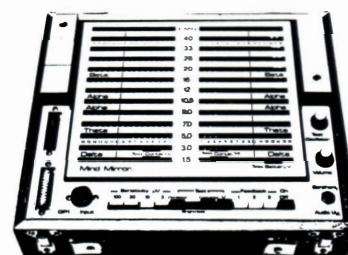
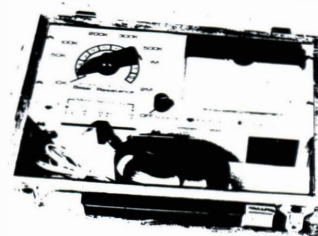
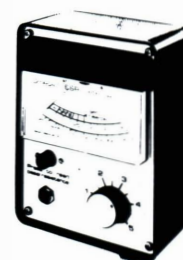
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Sept/Oct 1979

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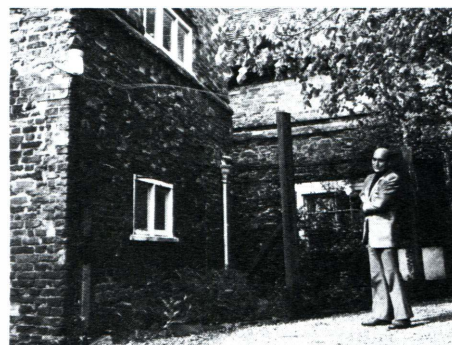


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Cover illustration: Ron Sandford

Escape for Nessie

BY THE time our last issue appeared, with its story of the dolphin search which was planned in the murky waters of Loch Ness, the project had been abandoned. The reason is that one of the two dolphins which had been specially trained to hunt for Nessie had died. Susie, aged 14, died before the planned airlift from America.

"Plans for continuation of the project have been postponed but at this time have not been cancelled," said Howard Curtis of the Academy of Applied Science, USA, which is sponsoring the monster search.

Feng-Shui

WHATEVER THE rational Western mind makes of Feng-Shui and the belief in an invisible flow of energy over the surface of the earth, it is still very much a live tradition in the East.

Radio 4's *From our own correspondent* slot dealt with the influential role of the age-old doctrine of Feng-Shui in modern-day Hong Kong. Jim Bidulph related how the siting of new buildings and industrial estates was governed by the geomancer's assessment of propitious and ill-fated locations. There is still plenty of work for geomancers in Hong-Kong, apparently. Their advice may even extend to the orientation of desks in an office.

Bidulph talked of the fear of baleful influences and evil spirits associated, according to the lore of Feng-Shui, with straight lines. Many buildings have mirrors sited outside to reflect the less desirable effects of earth energies.

It is even rumoured that actor Bruce Lee met his end because the protective mirror that stood at the end of his road was broken. While the younger generation do not express the same open interest in the tradition, they accord it the kind of tacit respect that indicates a readiness to live with its dictates.

(Radio 4, *From our Own Correspondent*, June 4).

Doubtful phenomena

FOLLOWING their *Nature* paper of last year, Professor John Taylor and Eduardo Balinovski have had a sequel published in the same scientific journal.

The paper's title, "Is there any scientific explanation of the paranormal?" is answered with a confident "No".

In line with their earlier research, they took a further look at the electromagnetic theory, on the assumption that it is the only possible force that could account

for clairvoyance, telepathy, dowsing, healing and other paranormal phenomena.

After examining the necessary levels of force required to generate a particular effect, they conclude that it is either beyond the range of the human body or otherwise impracticable.

They wind up their paper by saying, "We therefore conclude that neither EM nor any other scientific theory can explain any of the above mentioned ESP phenomena.

"In particular there is no reason to support the common claim that there still may be some scientific explanation which has as yet been undiscovered. The successful reductionist approach of science rules out such a possibility except by utilisation of energies impossible to be available to the human body by a factor of billions.

"We can only conclude that the existence of any of the psychic phenomena we have considered is very doubtful."

(*Nature* Vol 279 14 June 1979.)

Next issue, *Alpha* will carry a fuller discussion of this paper.

Cinema goes psychic

THE story of Jose Arigo, the famous Brazilian psychic surgeon who treated 300 patients a day, is to be made into a film. American actor Alan Arkin will direct and star, and the venture will be financed by Brazilian backers.

"The man's story defies belief," Arkin told the *Sunday Express* (July 8, 1979). "The first time I saw colour films of his work — taken by a team of doctors — I was stunned. I'd seen films of the work done by Philippine healers, and neither believed nor disbelieved. But here was something different; here was a simple man actually using a knife for his operations and wiping it clean on his shirt.

"He did six such operations in 10 minutes, and by the time it was over I was ready to believe anything."

According to Arkin, one of the team of doctors who filmed Arigo at work quit the medical profession afterwards because he saw little point in remaining a doctor, after what he had witnessed. Arigo was killed in a car accident several years ago.

Foreseeing success?

APART from psychic subjects being portrayed on celluloid, there seems to be a significant psychic influence behind the screen, too. It is reported that Mitsuharu Ishii, the millionaire Japanese film producer who is making an epic, "Oh, In-chon" with Sir Laurence Olivier

starring as General MacArthur, is relying heavily on Jeane Dixon, the Washington clairvoyant, for advice.

She has, apparently, advised him on the best days for filming and has commented on the script. Mrs Dixon was a friend of General MacArthur. Her most striking success has been in predicting the assassination of President Kennedy.

TM on trial

LIKE SO many TV in-depth probes, *Brass Tacks*' investigation of the transcendental meditation movement proved frustratingly inconclusive on several points. In its eagerness to cover as much ground as possible, we were left with a mixed impression. While the individuals on whose experience *Brass Tacks* dwelt seemed to indicate a positive reaction to learning TM, we were left to wonder, along with them, what World Governments and other aspects of the movement had to do with meditation.

More worryingly, several claims were made which simply didn't stand up to close examination. One concerned the so-called Maharishi effect: the theory that it only takes



Maharishi Mahesh Yoga, originator of transcendental meditation.

one per cent of a given community to meditate for orderliness and harmony to ripple outwards and influence others. It didn't seem to have worked in Hackney, or for that matter, Nicaragua.

Ernie Roberts, Hackney's MP, catalogued the woes of the constituency that had mounted despite TM's efforts to clean up what the movement had charmingly dubbed the "dustbin of England." Crime, strikes and other indices of social disorder had risen, reported Roberts.

Undeterred by this — it was telling to see how quickly the self-styled Governor of the Age of Enlightenment had mastered the skill of political evasion — Stephen Benson simply ignored the specific

issue and reiterated that it had worked in the USA.

Unfortunately, because of the presenter's urgency in pursuing other matters, the TM representatives were let off the hook. He did point out that a similar one per cent effort in Nicaragua had failed to head off civil war in the country.

Laudable though the desire to improve the state of the world may be, it is another matter to persist with claims in the face of strong contrary evidence.

If the TM movement were allowed to side-step the basic issues here, it was saved by the bell from answering questions about the true nature of its teachings. The organisation's representatives say TM is quite secular. Some of its critics argue that it is a front for the wider dissemination of the Hindu religion.

John Allan, a Christian youth worker, challenged TM on this, but was unable to do more than put his case before the clock stopped the programme. It was a shame. As a result there was no opportunity for going into the subject further.

Perhaps if the theme had been developed, we might have heard about a New York court case that led to the definite conclusion that TM was, in essence, religious. The case was brought by a group of New York tax payers who challenged the legality of having TM taught in schools. According to the American Constitution, it is illegal to have unsanctioned religious teaching in schools.

The case centred on the significance of the puja, a ceremony during which the TM technique is taught, and the text book used for classroom courses. The court found that both were religious in nature.

Assuming that the courts have no axe to grind and that the judgement is even-handed and fair, why should TM claim to be secular — staunchly maintained by the movement in the UK?

It gives further cause for unease about the TM organisation, with its slick sales patter, gold-adorned sales literature

Yet it does teach a meditative technique that people find beneficial, as employees of a Dartington printing firm who had recently become practitioners confirmed. A couple of them did express their suspicion about the organisational side of things and the world government, though.

What is more, a consultant psychologist agreed that there were very real benefits to be had — but not just from TM; other meditative techniques could produce the kind of effects claimed exclusively for TM.

To attract people to TM, its

sponsors need to be careful about what they say. It is not enough, when faced with criticism, to fob questioners off with the pre-digested articles of the organisation's credo. Even worse is the condescending smugness with which some representatives treat those who cannot swallow everything they say, hook, line and sinker.

Something to meditate on . . .

MEANWHILE, the columns of *New Scientist* have seen a fascinating debate on a TM side-issue. It began with a report on its Feedback page (May 31, 1979) that transcendental meditators experience significantly less rapid-eye movement (REM) during sleep.

Since it is during REM periods that we dream, and no one knows why we dream, the US Food and Drug Administration is loathe to give clearance to drugs which interfere with precious REM sleep.

The implication of this report, of course, is that TM may be harmful. But Nobel Prizewinning physicist Dr Brian Josephson (who has a keen interest in the paranormal) wrote from Cambridge University to observe (June 14 issue) that this suggestion was almost certainly based on a false analogy with drugs and a misinterpretation of the findings.

He agreed that interference with dreaming sleep results in irritability and a deterioration in performance, but he observed that TM seemed to produce the reverse effects.

"The probable explanation . . . is the alternative that transcendental meditation reduces the need for this kind of sleep; in other words that whatever the biological need is that is satisfied by the process of dreaming, it is satisfied by a shorter period of dreaming in meditators than in non-meditators."

Another *New Scientist* reader joined the debate (June 28) with yet another interpretation of the data. M. Nicholas of Birmingham reported that there was quite a body of evidence to suggest that sleep deprivation and particularly REM deprivation were *beneficial* to certain people — depressives.

The reason for this is not known, but he wondered if TM was reducing REM sleep, in which case "are those who proclaim the benefits of TM, perhaps, unknown to them, *all* ex-depressives . . .?"

For psychic read CIA?

PEOPLE who are nervous about associating publicly with psychics might like to borrow a new term coined by Clive Cussler, American

author of the best-selling novel, *Raise the Titanic*. He calls them "creative imagery analysts". Not CIA for short, surely?

That's the description he gave to four people from Duke University, North Carolina — famous for early ESP research — who were called in to help him in his search for Bonhomme Richard, flagship of Captain John Paul Jones, founder of the American Navy. It sank off Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, in 1779.

Cussler, who spent £40,000 last year in his search for the wreck and is prepared to spend another £30,000 in 1979, gave the four psychics a chart of the area and other information to help them come up with an area where the sinking ship may have jettisoned its guns to lighten its load. They did but "it doesn't coincide with our figures," he said.

(Source: *Guardian*, July 4, 1979)

Chance to study UFOs

MORLEY COLLEGE, London, believes it is sponsoring the first-ever serious study course on UFOs at an academic institute in the capital. Titled "Unidentified Flying Objects — Fact or Fiction?" the 13-week course runs from September 21.

The course will be run and researched by Lionel Beer, FRAS, who is director and chairman of the British UFO Research Association, and is devised to familiarise people with the nature and extent of ufology while encouraging them to adopt a critical and objective attitude.

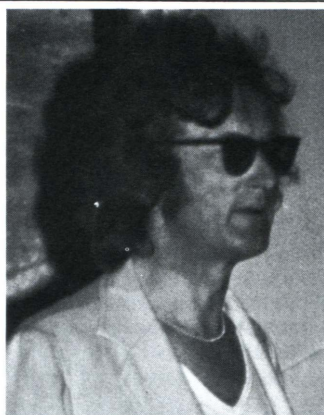
At £3 for 13 weeks — or 23p an evening — it has to be the best bargain for UFO enthusiasts, and others, to brighten the long Autumn evenings. (Morley College is at 61 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.)

Prehistoric challenge

THIS YEAR'S Moot organised by the *Ley Hunter* at Glastonbury on June 16 and 17 drew a record number of visitors. The ancient assembly rooms were packed to capacity with around 300 earth mysteries enthusiasts from around the country.

They had come to hear some of the leading authorities in the field, including Geoffrey Ashe, Tom Graves, Paul Devereux and Don Robins.

John Michell had a lot to say about his contact with the orthodox archaeological community which has, so far, been less than enthusiastic about the ley-line theory. He pondered on the reason for their often "savage, in-temperate opposition".



John Michell, Moot speaker.

Could it be that it is unpalatable to consider that Western society is not the pinnacle of civilisation that many would like to believe?

Ley lines, astro-archaeology and the discoveries revealed in our last issue of *Alpha* of the Dragon Project's findings, suggest that prehistoric man — some of them at least — were more accomplished than the primitive savage stereotype allows. Does this in some way get under people's skin?

As Michell reminded the audience, the idea that "we are a unique civilisation moving forward to some divinely appointed evolutionary goal" is quite recent. Pre-Darwinian ideas held that life and civilisations followed a cyclical pattern.

Anyway, the ley-liners are putting up a challenging case which archaeologists can no longer scoff away. It will be interesting to see how the debate develops.

For amateurs only

IS parapsychology the province of the professional academic and should it be funded with public money? The *Bulletin* of the British Psychological Society has been airing the views of its readers on this subject recently.

A powerful broadside from H. B. Gibson of Hatfield Polytechnic's Psychology Department started a fierce debate. Noting that some public money had been channelled in the direction of parapsychology research, he said, "It is the argument of the present author that not only have such research funds been wholly wasted and the time of able young researchers mis-employed, but that such a deleterious element of fraud and counter-suspicion has been fostered in the whole scientific research field, and it would have been better left to be the plaything of amateurs and had not trespassed on the legitimate field of scientific research."

He is not, as you can gather, impressed with parapsychology.

Having pointed out that some well-conducted experiments often produce nothing in the way of evidence, he argues that positive results fail to take sufficient account of fraud, either on the part of the subject or the experimenter. His objections drew several sharp replies.

Dr John Beloff, University of Edinburgh's Department of Psychology, weighed in, suggesting that there are phenomena to be investigated and that the effort could prove rewarding. Referring to Gibson's call for a stop to funds for such research, he says "it is hard to imagine a more reactionary or perverse proposal than this."

One of the major questions surrounding parapsychology has always been the difficulty of producing results under controlled laboratory conditions. That, together with the rather depressing record of fraudulently concocted positive results — Gibson dwells on the Soal-Goldney experiments that were subsequently exposed — has led many people to ask whether the research effort is worthwhile. It is an argument that calls for a good answer.

Beloff deals with the fundamental question of whether there is anything to investigate. "Psychic phenomena have been reported from every society and from every period of which we have record," he argues. Experimental parapsychology is still in its infancy and it is perhaps unreasonable to expect dramatic results too soon.

But have they already been produced? Gibson spends part of his paper questioning the positive findings of Targ and Puthoff, the American researchers, on the grounds that there was a considerable margin for doubt about the tightness of the experimental conditions governing their experiments. It seems inviting to capitalise on the known examples of fraud and experimental weakness.

David Fontana, Department of Education, University College, Cardiff, produced a closely argued defence of the Americans' work. Targ and Puthoff had been subjected to some fierce attacks following the publication of their results. But what is rarely repeated, claims Fontana, is the detailed answers supplied by the two experimenters to show that the alleged loopholes did not exist and that their critics had got some of their facts wrong.

What the debate running through the pages of the *Bulletin* had succeeded in doing, he claimed, was to raise the serious question of how and where parapsychology fits into the framework of mainstream psychology. There was undoubtedly an upsurge of in-

terest, particularly among post-graduates, he observed.

"Should we . . . be prepared to keep an open mind on parapsychology or banish it, as Gibson suggests, once and for all from the consideration of respectable science? Although inevitably debate must continue, keeping an open mind means essentially that we may not yet have discovered all the channels through which man is influenced by — and in turn — perhaps influences — his environment. It need amount to no more and no less than this."

Forewarned is forearmed. But should the record of gullibility, self-deception and fraud in the field of parapsychology necessarily prevent a disinterested appraisal of fresh evidence?

"Targ and Puthoff, by obtaining such positive results under such apparently strict experimental conditions, have thrown down a very definite gauntlet: They are not alone in this. So, in recent years, have Pratt at the University of Virginia, Tart at the University of California, Bender at the University of Freiburg, Honorton at the Maimonides Medical Centre, and Schneider at the City College of New York.

"If psychology decides, upon reflection, to ignore this gauntlet then all well and good. But it should ignore it for more compelling reasons than the suspicion that these and other serious workers in the field are perpetrating, either consciously or unconsciously, a series of frauds upon us all."

SNU split

BY ALL accounts, this year's annual general meeting of the Spiritualists' National Union — held in Manchester in mid-July — was a quiet affair. And that, for an organisation which seems to attract controversy and more than its fair share of rowdy delegates, is news.

Probably the most important outcome of the weekend's conference was the decision to separate its religious and business interests. Under its present constitution the Spiritualist philosophy gets tangled up in legal wrangles and company law disputes.

Discussions will now be held to get grass-roots approval before the plan is presented at a future meeting and then implemented. It's one split that most members are likely to welcome.

It was revealed that the union's impressive headquarters, Stansted Hall, in Essex, lost over £8,000 last year, due in part to hefty repair bills. Despite that, the Stansted committee were attacked by some delegates at the conference for allowing its sanctuary to be used as

a regular venue for Freemasons, an arrangement which, of course, has provided Stansted with much-needed revenue.

It is ironic that the committee should have to defend its decision to "open its doors" to people with a different philosophical outlook, because in the same month that this was debated it decided not to allow a Spiritualist speaker to talk about the Indian mystic Sai Baba.

Brian Hurst, who has met the remarkable man (who has been investigated by parapsychologists), was to have lectured at the invitation of medium Albert Best, who was taking a course at Stansted. Hurst refused to change the subject of his talk and Best agreed with him.

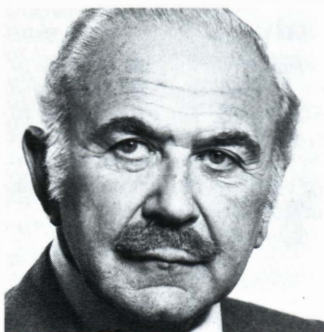
One wonders what the committee hope to achieve by refusing to allow people who attend its public meetings to look outside the confines of Spiritualism.

Camera never lies?

REGULAR readers of *Psychic News* will know that it is prone to carrying headlines like "Photos show healers' fingers inside bodies" and "Positive psychic power shown in photographs".

That first headline appeared over photographs of the Elizaldes just before BBC TV's Nationwide programme showed that there was no evidence that their fingers were going inside the bodies (see separate story).

The second headline appeared over three photographs taken in a London club after a demonstration by clairvoyant Mike Baker. A



Maurice Tester gives a normal explanation.

guitarist and singer are pictured but the photographs are largely obliterated by streaks of light. In *Psychic News*' judgment they are "brilliant psychic squiggles" (PN, July 14, 1979).

In its next issue the newspaper carried a letter pointing out that the lines were nothing of the sort. "They are the result of a sticking shutter." The writer adds that this phenomenon has happened to many experienced photographers and can be easily duplicated.

When will *Psychic News* learn to

be more cautious about photographic evidence of the paranormal? What makes the letter even more embarrassing for the newspaper is that it came from one of its directors, Maurice Tester!

Police probe psychics

AMERICAN police are conducting research into the use of psychics in criminal investigations, according to the March/April issue of *Parapsychology Review*, the journal of America's Parapsychology Foundation.

It reports that the behavioural science laboratory of the Los Angeles Police Department — one of the first to use hypnosis as an investigative technique — has begun a study to find out if psychics can help police solve major crimes.

Dr Martin Reiser, director of the laboratory, said, "The purpose of our study is not to address the question to the existence of ESP or paranormal phenomena generally. All we want to know is whether the use of psychics has a place in police investigation."

The police will use psychics who earn a living from their gifts as well as those who have other jobs.

This won't hurt

A METHOD of painless tooth extraction was demonstrated for the *Sunday People* in April by a 23-year-old Indian dentist, Dr Ashwan Barot. He explained that he had studied an ancient and little known form of yoga called jalandharbandhi, which was used by Hindu doctors 5,000 years ago to tranquillise patients.

His patient for the experiment was a 53-year-old hall porter who needed three teeth extracted from the bottom jaw. He sat cross-legged on the floor while the dentist wrapped a towel around the man's head, gripped it firmly and then rocked it back and forth for a minute.

That was all that was needed, apparently, to anaesthetise the jaw and he quickly pulled out the three teeth — in 20 seconds. Afterwards the patient said, "It didn't hurt a bit. It was as if my jaw wasn't there."

Dr Barot's explanation was that he "momentarily arrests the flow of energy through the body in the area of the jaw".

Knew he would die

THE INSURANCE company was suspicious when Spanish hotel executive Jaime Castell asked for a policy that would pay £50,000 only on his death, with no benefits if he

lived. He explained that he was concerned only about the welfare of his wife and son — because he was sure he would die.

A few weeks earlier a voice in a dream told him that he would never see his new baby, which was due in three months time.

The insurance policy was issued and the dream came true. He was driving home at a steady 50 miles an hour when another car, travelling at over 100mph, lost control, hit a mid-road safety barrier, somersaulted and landed on top of Castell's car. Both drivers were killed outright.

Castell's widow has received the £50,000 from the insurance company whose spokesman said that under any other circumstances the man's death would have been the subject of rigorous investigation.

"But this incredible accident rules out any suspicion. A fraction of a second either way and he would have escaped the somersaulting car which killed him." (Source: *Sunday Express*, March 25 1979.)

Hit and miss

NOW THAT Skylab has come back to Earth we can assess psychic experiments that grew up around the last days of the space mission (see *Alpha* No.3).

The attempt by the Institute of Psycho Energetics to lift the faltering space station into a higher orbit by mind power obviously failed. What remains to be seen is if Dr William Braud's Project Chicken Little came up with anyone who was able to predict the date of Skylab's demise (June 11) and the place where its ashes were scattered (South-West Australia).

Braud's Mind Science Foundation, based at San Antonio, Texas, launched the project in February this year with a letter to 150 potential participants including parapsychologists, psychics and other interested individuals. They were invited to predict the date of Skylab's re-entry and the place of impact.

Many of them distributed the letter to others so that, by the May 1 deadline, 200 responses had been received by the foundation. The results were published immediately.

Some of the participants appear to have come close to predicting the date of the event, though the majority chose August. But most were hopelessly wrong about the impact site: the largest longitudinal global segment being on the other side of the world, touching on the eastern US coast and down through South America. A handful picked Australia.

Braud promises a more detailed analysis of the predictions in the near future.

Seeing through the invisible ship mystery

A new book claims that the US Navy conducted an experiment in Philadelphia which caused a ship to become invisible. Paul Begg examines the evidence.

THE Philadelphia Experiment concerns an experiment allegedly conducted by the United States navy in 1943 in which a destroyer and its crew were rendered invisible and teleported from a dock in Philadelphia to the area of Newport News.

The very idea that such an experiment could have been conducted seems highly improbable but nobody has yet been able to prove that it did or did not take place. Now a book has been written on the subject, *The Philadelphia Experiment* by Charles Berlitz and William Moore (Souvenir Press, £4.95).

Although the experiment allegedly occurred in 1943, the story began in 1955 following the publication of *The Case For The UFO*, the first of four books about unidentified flying objects by Dr Morris K Jessup, a scientist with a varied career background. In this book and elsewhere Dr Jessup called for research into Einstein's unified-field theory, which he believed would aid the space programme and possibly explain the motive force of UFOs.

The broad general purpose of the unified-field theory was an attempt to deduce *all* known physical phenomena from a few fundamental principles, but it is generally defined as an attempt to establish that gravitational, magnetic and electric forces are connected to a more basic phenomenon of nature.

We all know about gravitational attraction, i.e., that every object in the universe attracts every other object. However, two unlike electric charges and two unlike magnetic poles will also attract. The mathematical equations which express these phenomena are *identical* in form, yet the phenomena are different and entirely unrelated, but as the similarities are so striking it seems possible that all three are branches of a basic natural phenomena. The attempt to establish that phenomenon is one particular aspect of the unified-field theory.

Sometime towards the end of 1955, Dr Jessup received a peculiar letter from someone who signed himself Carlos Miguel Allende (in subsequent letters Allende used an Americanized version of his name, Carl M. Allen), in which Allende claimed that during World War II the US Navy rechecked Einstein's work "with a view to any and every possible quick use of it" and that as a result of work conducted by a certain Dr Franklin Reno, whom Allende described as "my friend", an experiment was conducted at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in which a



Charles Berlitz: chronicler of mysteries

destroyer and its crew were teleported to another place after first being rendered invisible.

Allende claimed that in one sense the experiment was a success – it worked; on the other hand, the crew suffered terrible side effects. Some died, others went insane, one or two vanished in front of witnesses and a couple experienced what Allende called "freezing" and "getting stuck".

Allende claims to have witnessed the experiment whilst serving aboard the S.S. *Andrew Furuseth*. He provided a service number, Z416175; the names of two fellow witnesses, Chief Mate Mowsley and Richard "Splicey" Price; the name of a third member of the *Furuseth* crew who may have witnessed the experiment, a man named Conally; and states that a Philadelphia newspaper carried an article about a bar room brawl involving some of the crew from the destroyer used in the experiment, one of whom vanished in front of witnesses.

Whilst Dr Jessup was pondering these letters, the mystery was deepening in Washington. In July or August 1955 – before Jessup had received the first letter from Allende – Major Darrell L. Ritter, USMC Aeronautical Project Officer at ONR (Office of Naval Research), received a paperback copy of Jessup's book, *The Case For The UFO*. The pages of the book were interspersed with hand-written annotations and marginalia apparently made by three different people as they passed the

book among them. The annotations implied an intimate knowledge of UFOs, their methods of propulsion, and the origin and background of the beings operating them.

The book eventually passed into the hands of George W. Hoover, Special Projects Officer, and Captain Sidney Sherby, two ONR officers who appear to have had a personal interest in the subject of UFOs. These men eventually invited Jessup to Washington and showed him the book. According to some sources, Jessup recognised the handwriting of one of those who had made the annotations as being that of Carlos Miguel Allende. In any event, he mentioned the letters he had received and subsequently handed them over to Hoover and Sherby.

Hoover and Sherby, showing an interest which has never been clearly explained, arranged to have the book retyped to include all the annotations and the Allende letters. The work was undertaken by a Miss Dunn and a limited edition was published by the Varo Manufacturing Company of Garland, Texas.

It appears that Hoover, Sherby and Dr Jessup attempted to locate Carlos Allende. The results are unknown, but they do not appear to have been successful.

In 1959 the curtain fell on Dr Jessup's direct involvement with the story of the Philadelphia Experiment. On the evening of April 20 he was found in his station wagon in Dade County Park near Coral Gables, Florida. A hose leading into the closed car had been attached to the exhaust pipe. Jessup had killed himself.

Numerous friends and associates have said that Jessup had been depressed for some time and growing increasingly despondant over an approaching divorce, but an equally large number of people have expressed the opinion that suicide was not in Jessup's character. Some people have suggested that he was eliminated by a powerful silencer group because he was getting too close to the secret about UFOs.

The circumstances surrounding Dr Jessup's death certainly seem unusual. Mrs Anna Genslinger claims to have seen the medical examiner's files on the Jessup case and says that Jessup's blood was found to contain an extremely large quantity of alcohol. This, combined with a medication he was taking, would either have been fatal or so incapacitating that Jessup could not have driven the several miles to Dade County Park and there performed what was necessary for his suicide. Also, there does not seem to have been an autopsy, which is highly unusual in a case of suicide.

This, then, is the genesis of the Philadelphia Experiment, a strange story which is now the subject of a book by Charles Berlitz, of Bermuda Triangle notoriety, and William Moore.

According to Berlitz and Moore, Carlos Allende, or Carl Meredith Allen, to use his real name, signed aboard the SS *Andrew Furuseth* on August 16, 1943. The records of the Convoy and Routing Division of the United States Navy were consulted on my behalf and show that the *Furuseth* left Norfolk, Virginia, for Casablanca on August 16. She left Casablanca on September 2 and arrived in Norfolk on October 4. On October 25 she left Oran and did not return to the United States until the new year.

I also know that Allende/Allen was aboard the *Furuseth* throughout this period and this knowledge has revealed a major error in *The Philadelphia Experiment*. On page 79 the authors state that "since the crew records of the *Furuseth* no longer exist, it is difficult to come up with anything definite regarding others who may have served on that ship with Allende." This statement is untrue. In 1976 the Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard, retrieved the crew records from the Federal Depository and sent me a xerox copy. The records list Carl M. Allen among the crew, along with Chief Mate A. K. Mawdsley (not Mowseley), Richard C. Price and Patrick J. Connally.

That these records were available in 1976 sheds some doubt on the depth and accuracy of Berlitz and Moore's research. To my mind, the crew records of the *Furuseth* represent the starting point of the investigation and are vital to establishing at least the basis of Allende's story, which would have been seriously (if not fatally) damaged if the records had proved that Allende and his "witnesses" had not served aboard the *Furuseth*. Moreover, since the crew records were extremely easy to obtain, one can only wonder at how hard Berlitz and Moore worked to obtain their information and how reliable their sources were.

The crew records provide us with three facts: (1) that the SS *Andrew Furuseth* was a real ship; (2) that Carl M. Allen served aboard her; (3) that Allende/Allen's witnesses were also on board. But whilst this information to some extent strengthens Allende's story, it does not support his claims about the Philadelphia Experiment. His tale could be an elaborate hoax in which the background material is accurate, but the main substance of the story—the Experiment—a figment of a fertile imagination.

Berlitz and Moore located Allende and amongst the information he told them was the claim that the destroyer used in the Experiment was the USS *Eldridge*. According to Berlitz and Moore the deck logs are missing. The primary source of information about the activities of this vessel from August 27 (the date she was commissioned) to December 1, 1943, is therefore the ship's history as reported by the Department of

the Navy, which record that from September to December 28 the vessel combined escort duty with shakedown operations in the area of Bermuda, which means that the vessels would not have been in the same vicinity.

However, Berlitz and Moore claim to have found the engineer's log, which states that the *Eldridge* left Brooklyn on November 2 to round up some vessels which had been separated from their convoy during a hurricane. The convoy was called GUS 22 and the SS *Andrew Furuseth* was part of that convoy. Berlitz and Moore also unearthed a report filed by the commander of the *Eldridge* concerning an action which took place on November 20, 1943, about 200 miles off the coast of Casablanca. This information, which Berlitz and Moore see as a "glaring error" in the official history, suggests that the *Eldridge* and *Furuseth* would have been in close proximity for all or a part of the time between November 2 to November 12 (the date the *Furuseth* arrived in Oran) and that the *Eldridge* engaged in action during her return journey to the United States.

"Since the crew records were extremely easy to obtain, one can only wonder at how hard Berlitz and Moore worked to obtain their information."

From the information given by Berlitz and Moore, I cannot see that this material conflicts with the official history of the *Eldridge*; which states that the vessel combined escort duty with a shakedown in Bermuda. Moreover, as Berlitz and Moore admit, it is unlikely that a secret and daring experiment would have been conducted during a dangerous assignment in time of war and in full view of the best part of a convoy (which in any case conflicts with Allende's statements about the area in which the experiment was conducted).

The Philadelphia Experiment did not take place after October 25, the date when the *Furuseth* sailed for Oran, or between August 17 to October 4, when the *Furuseth* was at sea. This only leaves August 16-17, the day the *Furuseth* sailed for Casablanca, or between October 4 to October 25, the period between returning from Casablanca and leaving for Oran. There is no evidence to suggest that the U.S.S. *Eldridge* was anywhere near Philadelphia between October 4-25, which leaves August 16-17. Berlitz and Moore suggest that the two ships could have encountered each other as the *Eldridge* left the Newark—Philadelphia area for Brooklyn and the *Furuseth* was steaming along the coast

from Norfolk prior to heading out to sea for Casablanca.

I think this suggestion is contrived. It proposes a chance encounter during the final stages of the experiment, but such would have been a brief encounter that hardly fits the picture presented by Allende. And surely the Experiment would have been concluded before the *Eldridge* was returned to active duty?

However, the fact that the *Eldridge* and the *Furuseth* could have encountered one another means that Allende would have been aware of the existence of the *Eldridge* and lends weight to the theory, should you wish to accept it, that Allende's story is correct with regard to background information, but that the Philadelphia Experiment is a figment of the imagination.

The fake story theory is ruined, however, if you believe Berlitz and Moore's claim to have located Dr Franklin Reno, the man whose work on Einstein's unified field theory is said to have resulted in the Philadelphia Experiment, and to have been told by him that he participated in the early stages on an experiment which could have become the Philadelphia Experiment.

Many people have sought to locate Dr Reno but without success. He is not mentioned in *Who's Who*, *Who Was Who*, the *Dictionary of American Biography*, or any other reference source I consulted, or which was consulted on my behalf. The reason, say Berlitz and Moore, is that Franklin Reno is not the doctor's real name. During the Depression Dr "Franklin Reno" gained employment as a government scientist, working on a number of projects, including the early stages of one which could have developed into the Philadelphia Experiment. Then, about 30 years ago, fearing that he knew too much for his own safety, he abandoned his career and sought a new identity. One day he saw a Philadelphia roadsign indicating the miles to the city of Franklin and the village of Reno—and he called himself Franklin Reno.

Berlitz and Moore do not reveal the true identity of Dr "Franklin Reno", nor do they say what it was that he believed he knew too much about for his own safety but it must have been something important because he told Moore that he was still under surveillance.

Unfortunately, Dr "Reno" is now dead, so there is no hope of getting him to confirm and elaborate his story and unless one is prepared to repeat Berlitz and Moore's research, it is not possible to check for further details about his life. All we know is that this enigmatic character supposedly worked on the early stages of what *could* have become the Philadelphia Experiment.

At the end of it all we are still no nearer to knowing the truth about the Philadelphia Experiment, but I think that Berlitz and Moore have succeeded in casting considerable doubt on the whole story. *The Philadelphia Experiment* is an interesting book, but it is unsatisfactory because most of the details given cannot be confirmed by an independent researcher.

Must it be magic?

Top magician David Berglas can produce a very convincing display of paranormal effects without any psychic abilities. But he is open-minded about the reality of the phenomena he imitates in his shows.

DAVID BERGLAS is a magician with an international reputation and a repertoire which includes everything from sleight-of-hand card tricks to large-scale illusions. His mental magic is of such a high standard that many in his audiences might suspect that he uses paranormal powers, were it not for the fact that they *know* he is a magician. And it is because they are told they are being tricked that they do not worship Berglas as a Messiah with supernatural influence.

Those who see his performances may admire the skill and ingenuity which produce startling effects like levitation, telepathy, materialisation, predictions or metal bending, but they realise that when the curtain falls, Berglas, "Man of Mystery," is an ordinary human being.

Berglas realises how easy it would be to pretend to possess paranormal powers. Many of his tricks baffle fellow magicians because he uses special techniques he has developed, so it would be the easiest thing in the world to convince the public that his magic is something else. And it is for this reason that Berglas, like other conjurers, is cautious about the claims of many alleged psychics.

For 30 years he has investigated a variety of apparently paranormal phenomena and has been able to offer normal explanations for most of them. His experiences support the view that any impartial inquiry into psychic or mediumistic feats needs the help of an accomplished magician. That is why magicians figure so prominently in the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, the organisa-

tion which has magician James Randi on its executive board in the USA and Berglas as its British vice-president.

In its short history the Committee has earned a bad reputation in parapsychological circles because many of its leading members are seen to be out-and-out sceptics, bent on censoring the media's coverage of the paranormal and dismissing every psychic as a charlatan, in a way that is unscientific. That is a pity, because there is clearly a need for such a committee.

With David Berglas's involvement in the UK, however, the CSICP may be able to promote a different image. Berglas not only insists that he is genuinely open-minded but he even admits to having witnessed events for which he can offer no explanation.

"I approach every new case with the assumption that it is genuine," he explains. "There was a Welsh poltergeist case that was impressive, which I investigated 24 years ago. A brass bedstead had apparently been moved by some paranormal force and was left leaning against a wall in a very small room. It was impossible for the bed to have been turned to that position without taking it to pieces but I examined it carefully and all the joints were rusted up. They had not been touched for years. I had not seen the bed in its original position, of course, so I have to take the owner's word that it moved when he said it did." Berglas admits, however, that even with his skills, he can be fooled.

Inevitably, he has been involved in the Uri Geller controversy. When the famous Israeli metal-bender was about to demonstrate in Birmingham, the *Birmingham Mail* sought his help. He turned up at the hall dressed as a Pakistani bus conductor with the intention of getting on stage with Geller, as a volunteer from the audience, and replicating his metal-bending feats. His disguise was so good that many of his fellow-conjurers who were also present failed to recognise him. But the confrontation never occurred because the show was cancelled. Geller says it was because he received a bomb threat.

Berglas has put up £5,000 to anyone, including Geller, who can produce phenomena in front of his committee. It is not a loose challenge, Berglas points out, but a genuine offer, and it is metal-bending effects which have been the main area of study so far. He and a committee examined 19 people who claimed metal-bending powers, one of whom was a young child "who could do it better than Geller." But the team was not satisfied that it was paranormal.

Geller, however, has turned the tables by issuing a £50,000 challenge to anyone who



David Berglas

can prove his telepathic powers are just a conjuring trick. Berglas accepted immediately and a confrontation was arranged by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*, since when both newspapers have ceased to appear because of a management-union dispute. Nevertheless, when those newspapers are re-published we can expect an interesting encounter between the two, though it is not clear who will act as judge or what conditions will be imposed.

It also raises the question, once again, of how valuable such challenges are. A wealthy British businessman, Gerald Fleming, has put up £10,000 to anyone who can produce genuine psychic phenomena – but there have been no takers. Those individuals who claim to have special powers treat such offers with contempt. James Randi, the American conjurer, has been more fortunate in that he has had quite a number of people anxious to take the \$10,000 he has put up, but the money is still intact.

Randi and Berglas, of course, are following the great tradition established by Harry Houdini and other magicians, and it is easy to suspect their motives. Challenging and exposing frauds is a very good way of getting publicity, but does it get us any nearer the truth about psychic phenomena? And can a conjurer's desire



American medium Dr Henry Slade found himself in the dock in London when his slate writing was explained as a conjuring trick – over 100 years ago. He was found guilty but the sentence was quashed on technical grounds.

to be seen to have all the answers prejudice the outcome of an investigation? One of Houdini's assistants claimed that the great illusionist got him to plant incriminating evidence against Margery Crandon, the American medium, so that Houdini could "expose" her.

So, there are grounds for being cautious about the value of such challenges. On the other hand, most prominent psychics do receive financial reward for their services, so there should be no ethical reason for them not to accept one or more of the offers, so long as they are given a guarantee that the investigation will be fair.

Alpha believes that any investigation of physical phenomena requires the presence of skilled conjurers, and for that reason we are happy to print a special contribution from James Randi in this issue. We will also be pleased to hear from any psychics who are willing to meet the challenge. But in associating ourselves with his offer, we also maintain our own editorial independence. Our only interest is the serious study of psychic phenomena, and fair play for those individuals who come under study.

And fair play, as far as we are concerned, involves reporting both sides of the argument, which is why we consider it important that we quote the criticism of Randi which appears in the July 1979 issue of the American *Fate* magazine. Written by its editor, Curtis Fuller, it deals with Ran-



Mary Evans Picture Library

The Davenport Brothers were world famous for their mysterious powers. Magician Harry Houdini (right) is pictured with Ira Erastus Davenport who, says Houdini, explained how they achieved their most baffling effects.

di's claims — made in his book *The Magic of Uri Geller* — about the work of Hal Puthoff and Russell Targ at the Stanford Research Institute (now known as SRI International).

The two scientists produced a list of 24 errors which they claimed Randi made in his comments on their research. Randi admitted making one: a reference to SRI's public relations man, but maintained that this did not affect his claim that their work with Geller was "a farce". The conjurer then offered \$1,000 to any charity the scientists cared to name if they could substantiate just one of their other criticisms.

Curtis Fuller examines six of Randi's controversial statements and concludes that Randi was wrong in more than one of

his statements on the Puthoff-Targ work. He comments: "The damage that such blind attacks as Randi's inflict on parapsychology is obvious. The general impression left with the reading public is that the SRI studies of Uri Geller and others were scientifically invalid forays conducted by enthusiastic amateurs. No one who has read the actual Puthoff-Targ reports can believe this." He adds that, if Randi was serious in his offer, he now owes \$1,000 to Parapsychology Research Group of California, the charity selected by the two scientists. Unless he pays the money, says Fuller, "no knowledgeable person should ever again take his publicity gambits seriously. But, alas, memories are short. We are still waiting for Mr Randi to fulfill his boast that he can duplicate the Ted Serios psychic photography under the same conditions imposed upon Ted."

There has been a running battle between psychics and conjurers for more than a century, though some famous magicians have testified to witnessing paranormal phenomena. The latest round of challenges is likely to widen that rift. And yet, if psychic effects like materialisation and psychic surgery and metal bending *can* be produced with the regularity and certainty that their most famous exponents claim, then there is no reason why any one of them should not be happy to accept the money that is available.

What do you think, James Randi?

ST. JAMES HALL,
ON SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 23d, 1879.

FAREWELL TOUR!
AFTER SIX YEARS ABSENCE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES,

IRA E. DAVENPORT
Survivor of the World Renowned
DAVENPORT BROTHERS
AND
PROF. J. F. DAY
Previous to their departure to Mexico and South America.



In Unique and Startling Wonders!

Mysterious displays, and unaccountable Mysteries, which have been given in the presence of the Crowned Heads and Nobility of Europe, and before large and intelligent assemblies throughout the civilised World. Their profound

MYSTERIOUS POWERS

Have astonished the wisest of all countries, and the most learned have been forced by overwhelming evidence to acknowledge them as inexplicable. No complicated or glittering apparatus for deception used.

Notwithstanding the absurd and extravagant pretensions of various mountebanks and impostors, the Davenport Wonders still remain as profound a Mystery as ever.

CHALLENGE!

These gentlemen challenge all Exponents including HADWIN, HANCOCK, and KELLOGG, also Prof. KELLEN, none of whom dare meet them. The following Startling Wonders and Mysterious Movements are all produced in the

LIGHT,

and positively in full view of the entire audience. Musical Instruments are made to play in the most extraordinary manner, and in the most profound and mysterious way. Human hands and arms become visible, and many other interesting experiments are presented, originating only with the Davenport Brothers in the year 1855, and never produced with success by imitators. Every opportunity will be given for the closest inspection by the public and press of this city. Skeptics are especially invited to be present and occupy front seats. Come and see for yourselves; take up your own word. Examine and believe your own eyes, be guided by your own reason, as all of the above, through ignorance and superstition, has been attributed to WITCHCRAFT and DEMONOLOGY.

One hundred years ago, Ira Davenport was continuing to mystify audiences, after his brother William had died, with a new partner.



Mary Evans Picture Library/Harry Price Collection, London University

Mary Evans Picture Library/Harry Price Collection, London University

Harry Houdini devised this contraption to prevent American medium Margery Crandon from manipulating the box on the table in a darkened seance room. Here he shows how the restraints would be imposed. When she still managed to produce effects he exposed her method but an assistant later confessed to planting the evidence.

Would you like \$10,000?

That is what American magician James Randi is offering to anyone who satisfies him that they can produce psychic phenomena. In this report he reveals that so far no one has succeeded in winning the money.

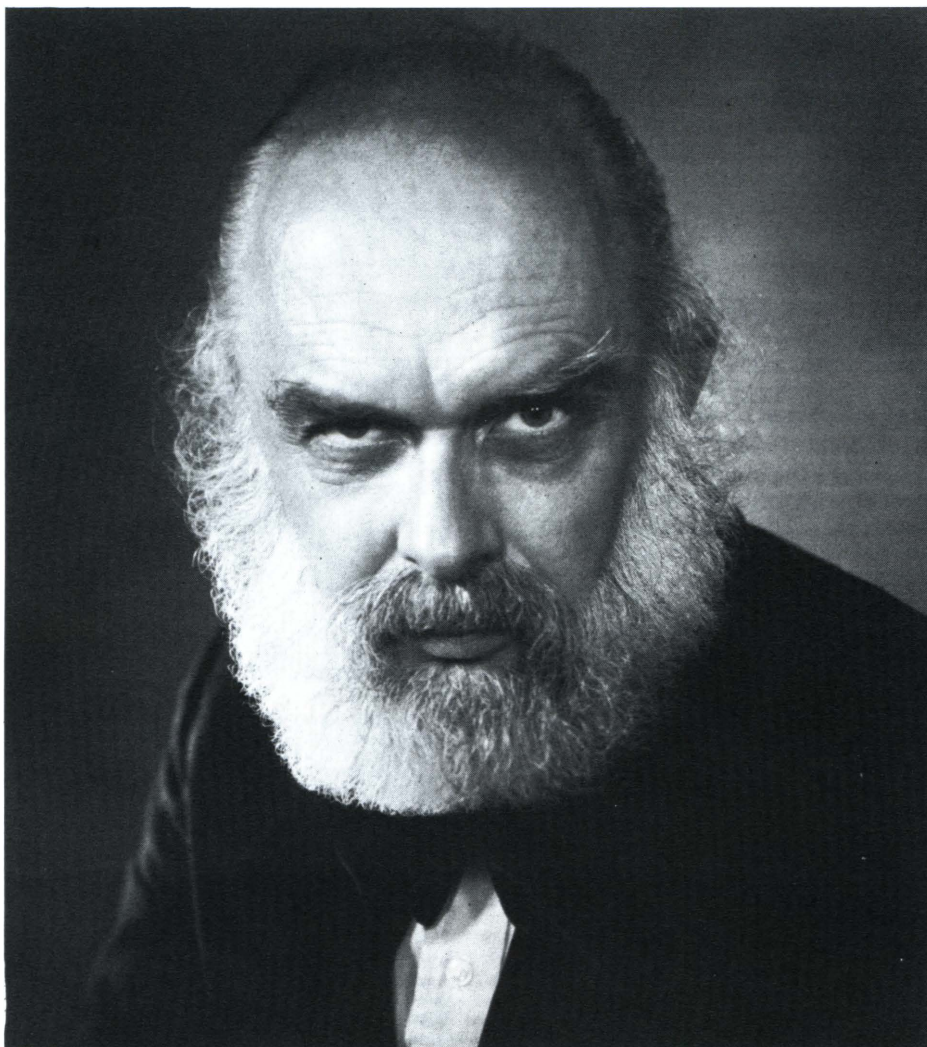
FOR THE past 15 years, I have carried about with me a personal cheque for US\$10,000, awardable under carefully stated conditions for a performance of a paranormal nature. In that time, more than 300 persons, a good number of them in the UK, have applied to me in hopes of winning that prize. Only 52 have passed the simple preliminaries and actually been tested under proper scientific protocol. And it seems my money was never safer.

Let me explain, before anguished cries arise from the paranormalists, just what I mean by "simple preliminaries". It is obvious that I cannot undertake to travel across the globe to witness some basic card-trick or conjuring illusion. If the claimant is at a great distance, I have resorted to assigning another person in that area to perform a cursory examination and report to me. If I suspect that a trick is being used, I ask that the examination be repeated with certain precautions against that form of trickery. A good percentage of my challengers have been eliminated by this means, being caught in the act, so to speak. *Not one* has complained of unfair treatment subsequently.

Most of the would-be testees, however, are simply self-deluded. This means they are honestly deceived by quite simple phenomena or abilities that they believe to be supernormal. In the great majority of these cases, the persons involved have been convinced of their error, and have retired gracefully. A good example is a lady in Italy who had produced hundreds of supposedly "spiritual" photos with a Polaroid camera. She demonstrated for me via RAI-TV in Rome that she was simply not able to use the camera properly, and following my analysis of the problem, test prints were sent to the Polaroid Corporation in the USA for their opinion, which agreed in every respect. These were problems that the company was familiar with, and which crossed desks there every day.

A very few of the claimants are out-and-out charlatans. This class, however, usually tries to avoid my challenge unless pressed to meet it, and then they will usually fail to produce results. They can always fall back on the tired old premise that such people have impressed upon investigators for years: they cannot produce under pressure.

Out of more than 40 dowsers who agreed to meet me in Italy this year, only four actually showed up, and they failed miserably in the tests. They were not, I must say, dishonest, since they really believed they had the powers they claimed. The drop-outs may not have been so



James "the Amazing" Randi

honest. One even issued a statement to the press, after failing to show up, that he had won by default because I would not let *him* make up the rules! With *my* money at stake? No way!

This offer of mine is still in effect, and will be during my lifetime. I am willing to discuss changes in the rules where necessary, and to bend wherever possible. But strict scientific conditions must apply, and my money is always subject to forfeit in the event of a successful claimant showing up. My will bears an obligation on my executors to continue this offer under the control of suitably informed and capable management. I am in the habit of putting my money where my mouth is.

One would think that this offer of mine might draw from critics a certain amount of grudging admiration. Not so. Years ago, before I had made this offer, I was challenged several times to put up my

money. In those days, I'd have been hard put to get that much together. Now that I *have* made the move to put up a prize, I am denounced for a cheap "theatrical" stunt! As usual with the psi-nuts, they want it both ways . . .

OK. If they resent my "stunt", let them come forward and claim the prize. We hear a great deal about the great powers claimed – so let's see them put to work to earn my prize money. Donate it to charity, if you wish. Perhaps it could go to the Home for Failed Psychics. Their population has gone up recently in an alarming way, I hear.

Seriously, I am willing to meet and test any person who believes he or she has psi-powers of any sort. I am frequently in the UK, and I am sure that *Alpha* will gladly accept applications from interested claimants. You need put up not one penny against my \$10,000 – just show up and perform. What could be easier!

Surviving as a psychic

Matthew Manning is in demand around the world as a subject for laboratory experiments and as a lecturer. Roy Stemman talks to him about his abilities, his problems and his future plans.

AT 24, with long hair and a near beard, he could easily pass for a pop musician. The bright orange Lotus on the drive outside, with a cassette of Rod Stewart in the tape player, reinforces the image. But Matthew Manning's star has risen in another field: the paranormal.

To call him a psychic superstar may seem to be a gross exaggeration, but how else do you describe a young man whose claims to fame include the ability to bend metal, make seeds grow faster, destroy cancer cells, deflect an infra-red beam, diagnose disease, draw like famous artists, influence the movement of living organisms and heal the sick?

As if all that was not enough to keep him, and a host of researchers, busy for a decade or two, Matthew Manning has decided to launch a new spiritual movement.

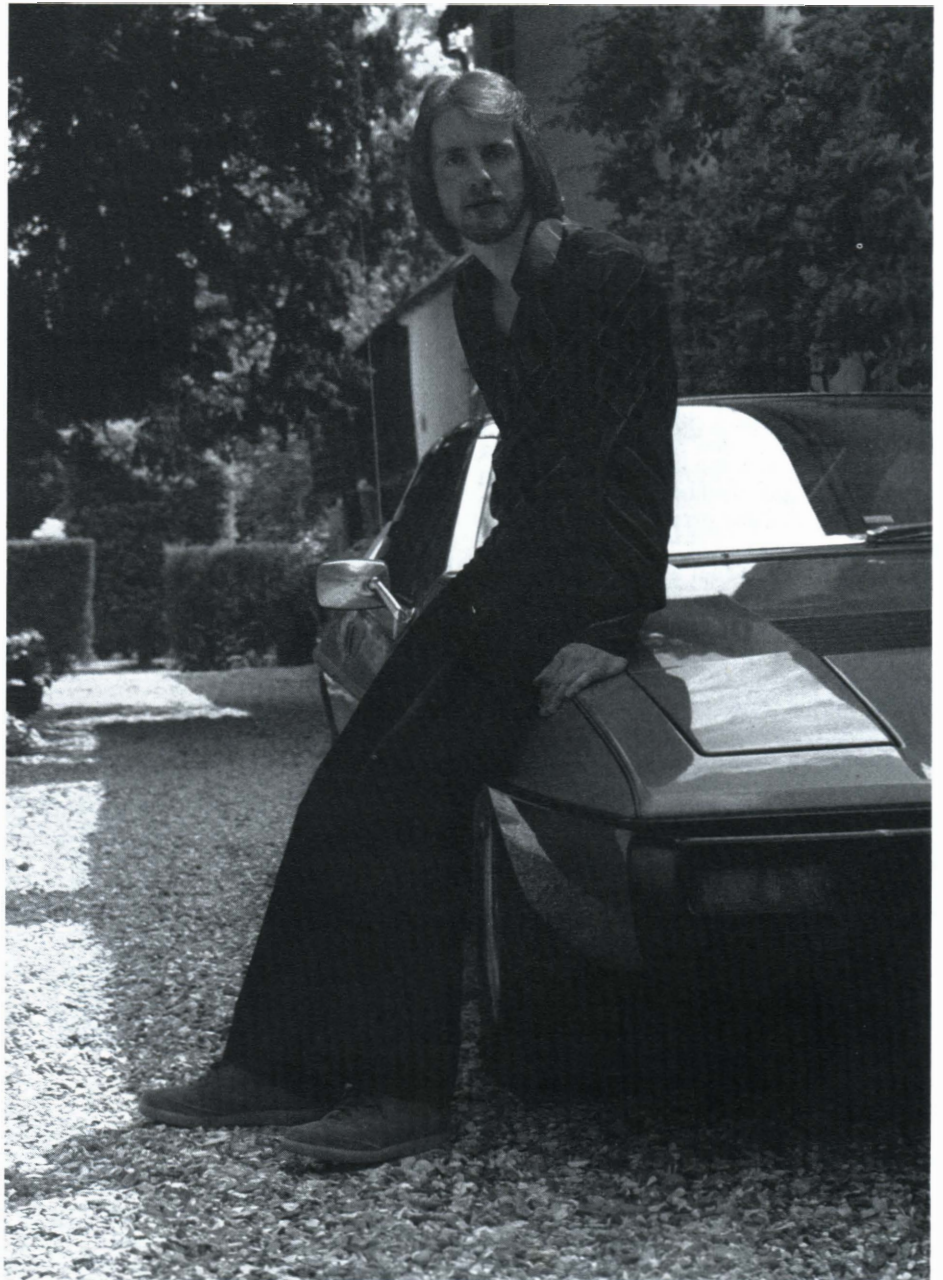
"Its called One-ness, a Movement for Holistic Harmony," he explained as we relaxed in the drawing room of his parents' centuries-old house in a village not far from Cambridge. "Its purpose is to make as many people as possible aware of the necessity of healing. Not just healing people, but healing the Earth, too. I've had experiences, recently, which have made me aware that we are making ourselves ill, all the time, by the things we are doing to the Earth . . . by pollution, nuclear waste, fluoride, and all sorts of things."

As I listen to him talking about his plans, it was hard to believe that his peaceful home was once the scene of violent poltergeist phenomena. An earlier outbreak, 13 years ago, in another house, was short-lived.

The second, when Matthew was 15, was sustained for a considerable time and produced an astonishing range of phenomena. Matthew, the eldest of the three Manning children, was found to be the catalyst for the strange occurrences, which even followed him to school and were witnessed by many of his friends and the school matron.

Normally, poltergeist phenomena are likely to occur at the onset of puberty and do not last many months. In Matthew's case, however, the poltergeist effects appear not to have disappeared, but to have been transformed into other psychic phenomena which he can now control.

Matthew has told the story of his poltergeist experiences and subsequent psychic development in *The Link* (Colin Smythe, 1974) and *In The Minds of Millions* (W. H. Allen, 1977). In May, 1971, the poltergeist phenomena began to decline following a trance-like experience



Matthew Manning at his parents' home in Cambridgeshire.

in which Matthew heard the voices of a number of apparently long-dead people. Shortly afterwards, while trying to write an essay, his hand was suddenly controlled and he wrote an incomprehensible scrawl across the page. Then, on June 6 that year, he tried a further writing experiment with six friends, and this time he received a legible message.

He noticed that no poltergeist phenomena occurred for the next 36 hours and concluded that automatic writing was the best way of preventing the unsought manifestations of the poltergeist. So,

whenever he felt the poltergeist was about to "appear", he would pick up a pen and start writing. Even at that stage he showed a healthy scepticism about the nature and origin of the scripts. One purported to be from the 17th-century English diarist, Samuel Pepys, but Matthew observed: "I cannot believe that Pepys would write something so naïve, and the style of the language is not correct."

Nevertheless, there were times when the scripts contained information which was unknown to Matthew. Someone calling himself Thomas Penn was able to diagnose

people's health conditions, using their birthdates to help him. Matthew also received foreign languages, including messages in Arabic.

Later, the Cambridge teenager began to draw pictures in an impressively wide range of styles: including Thomas Bewick, Albrecht Dürer, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and Aubrey Beardsley. These mentally-inspired phenomena had the effect of dampening down the physical manifestations that plagued Matthew at the time, though he no longer does automatic writing or drawing – the latter bored him because there was no creative input from him; he was merely a spectator as his hand drew.

But what can we learn from these phenomena? Was he really being controlled by the dead, or was it his subconscious which was producing the fascinating words and pictures? Dr George Owen, an expert on poltergeists, was called in during the first outbreak of phenomena in the Manning household and has since carried out experiments with Matthew in Toronto, where he now runs a foundation which investigates the paranormal. (The Canadian research, incidentally, discovered a remarkable brain wave pattern in Matthew – described as the “ramp function” –

at the moment he produced psychic effects.) Dr Owen comments:

“Matthew himself expresses a fairly conservative view when he alludes to the possibility of a contribution from his own unconscious (e.g. either subconscious fantasy or his memory bank) . . . Without committing myself on the question, which deserves exhaustive and complete study, I am inclined to say there is quite a case for supposing that Matthew receives information by paranormal means. Whether this is actually from the spirits of the dead I cannot say.”

In the early days, Matthew tended more towards a subconscious explanation than a spirit hypothesis for his unusual talents. When it was just a question of objects flying, or being moved mysteriously from room to room, or disappearing, it was possible to believe that some power exerted by the young adolescent and manipulated by his subconscious was responsible. But the mental phenomena introduced aspects which were more difficult to explain away.

The diagnosis of ill-health given by “Thomas Penn”, for example, were regarded by Matthew as “nothing to do with spirits”. He concluded that Penn did not exist and the automatic writing was just a means of expression for his own clairvoyance. But at the end of last year, while demonstrating automatic writing at a public meeting, he had a strange experience.

He asked people to write their birthdates on pieces of paper and to pass them to the platform, so that he could take them one at a time and make automatic diagnoses which were displayed on an overhead projector as they were written. Four consecutive diagnoses were wrong. Then someone in the audience pointed out that



A

A new “Durer”, courtesy Matthew Manning.

he had used some of the papers to rest his hand on, to prevent electrostatic adhesion to the projector. He checked and found that the messages which Penn had written applied with astonishing accuracy, every time, to the paper placed face down on the projector – and not to the one on which he was concentrating.

“That indicates to me that there was something outside of me coming through,” says Matthew. Then, as though anxious not to seem too taken with spirit hypothesis, he adds: “I don’t know. Even that could be some kind of clairvoyance, I suppose, but I just tend to think that it’s probably not.”

Long exposure to sceptical researchers has obviously influenced his attitude, though he has always been level-headed about the things which happened in his presence. But the researchers, too, have had to learn to cope with exposure to Matthew Manning: not only the phenomena he produces but with him as an individual.

People with psychic talents are often at the mercy of psychic researchers. They can be criticised or attacked and are seldom given an opportunity to reply. With Matthew it is different. His first book, a best-seller, led to a sequel in which he dealt, sometimes unmercifully, with researchers and the way they treated him.

“I’ve been abused by so many researchers,” he told me. “They do experiments, they waste my time – I never charge for such research – and then they don’t even bother to write up their work. I’m not bothered about whether their papers are published because I know it can be difficult to get them into print, but there’s no excuse for not writing them up. I’ve made a statistical study of all the work I’ve done in the last five years, and I calculate that for every one successful experiment in which I have participated and which has been writ-

ten up, there are ten successful ones which are not. That’s a ten per cent write-up rate, and the amount of material they are wasting is criminal.”

Matthew says that researchers spend too much time duplicating work that has been done time and time again. He’s not interested in such research and is anxious, instead, to introduce new ideas. “Anybody who works with me has got to do experiments that I want to do, because I know those experiments are likely to succeed.”

Nor is he alone in that view. The famous American psychic, Ingo Swann, and Hella Hammid, who has also scored consistently above chance in ESP experiments, hope to join Matthew in putting their point across at this year’s Parapsychological Association’s conference. They have the backing of Stanley Krippner, the respected American parapsychologist, but other researchers insist that psychic subjects have nothing worthwhile to say. “In my opinion,” says Matthew, “those people shouldn’t be doing research.”

He hopes it will be possible to form a group of psychics who will bring pressure to bear on researchers in order to improve standards. They would compare experiences and, in effect, give a star rating to psychic experimenters, on the basis of how imaginative their research is; whether they write up their results; and what chance they have of getting their work published. “That way,” says Matthew, “there would be a lot of researchers who would be virtually ‘blacked’ and find themselves without subjects to work with.”

This scheme is seen as a way of improving standards generally and making life more tolerable for those individuals – particularly the young and non-aggressive – whose unusual abilities come under the scrutiny of science.

I died in Switzerland on
 April 21 1951. I am now
 restless. My body is at Sapperton
 Where is Faith Hill? In the
 storm and uncertainty and fear
 that today permeate the world,
 set yourselves to become part of
 the hand of God which stretches
 out to bring peace and patience
 and high standards of truth
 and justice to all peoples. Bless
 my body and allow mass. Here is
 Charles, father now. I must go

Robert Cripps

52
 T.

A product of Matthew Manning's automatic writing - a message from Stafford Cripps.

Early last year, for example, he participated in a series of experiments with Dr John Kmetz, Director for Research at the Science Unlimited Research Foundation, in San Antonio, Texas. They were designed to see if Matthew could cause tissue culture cells to detach from the surface upon which they were growing, and were part of a larger series of tests arranged by Dr William Braud at the Mind Science Foundation, San Antonio.

The results were impressive and Kmetz intended submitting them for publication in *Science*. While Matthew was still in San Antonio, Kmetz told a TV interviewer:

"I've been working on a series of experiments that involve the apparent ability of some individuals to cause cancer cells to float free from culture flasks in which they are grown . . . What one is disrupting is the charge on the surface of the cell. In order for the cell to have this charge it must be maintained as an active metabolising cell. If one can somehow disrupt the metabolism of the cell and thus cause it to decrease for some reason or other, then you can decrease the charge which is on the surface of the cell and cause the cell to float free. How they do it, I don't know, at this point. But they can apparently change that charge."

According to Matthew, Kmetz believed at that time that he was observing a paranormal effect. He has since changed his mind under circumstances which disturb the young British psychic. It took considerable pressure from Matthew before he eventually had a reply to his letters asking Kmetz for a copy of his report. The reply, however, came from Gary Heseltine, a research associate of Science Unlimited Research Foundation, who informed Matthew that Kmetz had moved to New Jersey. He added:

"A couple of days after your departure last year, it was found that large numbers of cells could be dislodged from the flask by a *light* finger tap or by properly agitating the flask. Thus the conclusion that a paranormal influence was involved cannot be drawn because of the manner in which the experiments were conducted..."

What surprises Matthew about this explanation is that it does not appear to cover all the observed effects. Why, if light tapping can dislodge the cancer cells in the flask held by Matthew and other psychics, did it not also have the same effect on the cells in flasks held by non-psychics and used as controls for comparison? Why, also, did an increase in detached cells occur in flasks which Matthew attempted to influence without touching - an effect, incidentally, which was not observed in the untouched control flasks? And Matthew, for good measure, points to statements made earlier by Kmetz which indicate that vigorous shaking and thumping of flasks had failed to dislodge the cells.

If Kmetz has found a real flaw in his own experiments then the best thing to do would be to re-run the tests under conditions which eliminate the tapping theory. But he appears not to be interested in doing so and has left the foundation. Instead,

at Matthew's instigation, the same experiments are now being done with him in London, under the control of Professor John Hasted and Glen Rein.

The tests are important because they involve vitro cervical cells and if the effect is paranormal it shows that some people have the power to "kill" cancer. In other words, their psychic influence has a healing effect. If it can occur in a laboratory, then it ought to work with human beings, too, which is why Matthew has been concentrating on healing in recent months. When he gives healing he feels a tremendous rush of energy which he believes is the power of love being channelled through him. "And although I don't like to admit it, the more experience I have the more convinced I become that it is being directed by spirit entities."

His desire to heal the sick did not grow out of laboratory work. It came about in 1977 after a mystical experience in India where he had gone in the hope of meeting a guru "who would give me the answers to life". He never found the guru, but he found some of the answers in himself as he watched the sun rise over the Himalayas.

Matthew was filled with awe as he became aware of the transitory nature of human life in comparison with the millions of years the mountains had existed. He also felt pain because of the distance which separates human beings. Each of us is an island, he felt, reaching out all the time to ease our loneliness. As he meditated on these thoughts Matthew felt he had momentarily, become a completely harmonious part of everything around him. And he sensed a presence with him that urged him to follow that which he felt was right. "I was also urged to follow those paths which had a potential for healing, in the most general sense of the word. Not just healing people, but healing the Earth."

This view coincided with the teachings of someone who has influenced Matthew's life - Rolling Thunder, a Red Indian medicine man he met in America. Rolling Thunder told Matthew that many people, particularly the young, were seeking what they called spiritual guidance, but which was no more than something that would benefit themselves. They had to transcend their egos and lose their greed before they could become truly spiritual. They should, he added, have far greater respect for the Great Spirit's life plan and for all nature and each other. Most people, he told Matthew, were blind to the fact that when they harmed themselves they harmed the Earth, and when they harmed the Earth they harmed themselves.

Matthew admits it took him a long time to realise what Rolling Thunder meant, but now he embraces that philosophy and is trying to put it into practice by forming his One-ness movement and by running a weekly healing clinic in Leicestershire, with the help of Charles Bullen, a trance medium, and Win Wood. Many may regard his hopes for One-ness as naïve and ill-conceived, particularly as he wants it to operate without committees of the power



Matthew Manning: interferes with infra-red beam at a distance.

structure which plagues Spiritualism. Nor does he want to be put on a pedestal as its leader.

It is hard to conceive how such a Movement, embracing spiritual and ecological interests, could gather the impetus to survive for long enough to have any influence. But if it fails, then Matthew seems destined to succeed single-handed as a major influence on the psychic scene. Though he has not followed Uri Geller onto the public platform to entertain with his special powers, he lectures extensively, conducts workshops and has started to give public healing demonstration. He has also grabbed the attention of a number of detractors, among them conjuror James Randi who is said to be planning to write a book about him.

Despite his running battles with psychic researchers, he has not forsaken their laboratories. "There are now only two groups of parapsychologists I will ever work with again: certain members of the Society for Psychical Research in London, and with William Braud's Foundation in Texas."

His metal-bending feats rival those of Geller. While being tested in Toronto, for example, he produced a series of outstanding effects. In front of 20 witnesses he held an apartment key for five minutes while answering questions. It bent to such an extent that it had to be clamped in a vice and hammered vigorously for 10 minutes by the building superintendent before it would open the door. Later the

same day, during a 40-minute car journey, he held another key. At the end of the journey it was curved through 90° at about 3/8 inches from the tip. It continued to bend during the night. When it eventually stopped bending, the researchers reported, it had bent about 150° and was split through one third of its width.

He regards his experiments to promote the growth of seeds as of the utmost importance. "I've also just finished doing an experiment with John Hasted, in which I have retarded the growth rate of mould samples by giving them healing. Some of the trials in that particular experiment have beaten odds of over five million to one. I've done another experiment with the SPR where I've been able to interfere with an infra-red beam, several metres away, and at one point a quarter of a mile away. That hasn't been done since Rudi Schneider did it in the late 1920s. It was done under rigorous controls and there was no way it could have been produced fraudulently." His main concern, however, is that his research work should have a beneficial application, which is why he is so involved in healing.

If Matthew Manning's dream of One-ness is realised then many people will have reason to be grateful to him for offering a better understanding of life and the forces which control our destiny. It is an ironic twist of fate that the violent disturbances of a persistent poltergeist should have given birth to a movement for harmony.

Images of the unseen

Researchers around the world are studying the fascinating results produced by electro-photography in the hope that it will provide us with a greater understanding of ourselves and other life forms.

WANT TO discover your hidden potential? Anxious to know what your real state of health is? Care to have an instant portrait of your psychological state? The answer could be, literally, at your fingertips.

According to some researchers all this is possible by simply taking a picture of your hands or fingers with special equipment which produces a strange "aura" around them. The technique is commonly known as Kirlian photography, after a Russian researcher (see *Alpha* No.1) but there are many ways of producing a similar effect, developed by others, and so for simplicity we will use the term electro-photography (EP).

In general, EP techniques do not use cameras or lenses. Instead, the object to be recorded is placed on a sheet of photographic paper and subjected to a high voltage high frequency electrical field. This produces a corona effect around the object, whether it is animate or inanimate.

The simplest EP method produces black and white pictures in which the corona looks like a dark hairy growth. A simple machine enabling individuals to carry out their own research is available for around £150. Colour prints can also be produced and some are so incredibly beautiful that they have been accepted by art exhibitions. The Russians, who have pioneered work in this field, have even succeeded in taking very impressive colour movies of the EP effect.

What is beyond dispute is that the corona effect is a real and repeatable phenomenon. What is still open to question is what causes it and what value it will be. The chances are that it is a very straightforward electrical phenomenon with no paranormal significance. But it has, nevertheless, attracted widespread interest among parapsychologists, even though many of them remain sceptical about claims made on its behalf. The interest has two causes: 1) the early reports from Russian researchers that EP pictures sometimes recorded "phantoms"; and 2) the belief that the EP corona may reflect a person's physiological or psychological state.

The phantom effect, of course, had tremendous significance. It was said that a leaf could be photographed, then a part cut away and then rephotographed. When that happened, on a very small number of occasions the damaged leaf would produce an EP picture of a *whole* leaf. The implication was that living organisms had a life force or an energy field that persisted for a period, even when the organism had been mutilated. If that was true of leaves then it may also be true of human beings, in

which case perhaps the energy body was a manifestation of the soul. Such thinking led some people to claim that what the EP was recording was the "aura" which clairvoyants and mystics see.

There has been growing scepticism about the phantom leaf effect in the West and some scientists criticised the way in which it was produced, suggesting that an electrostatic charge may account for the effect. One such critic, Prof William A.

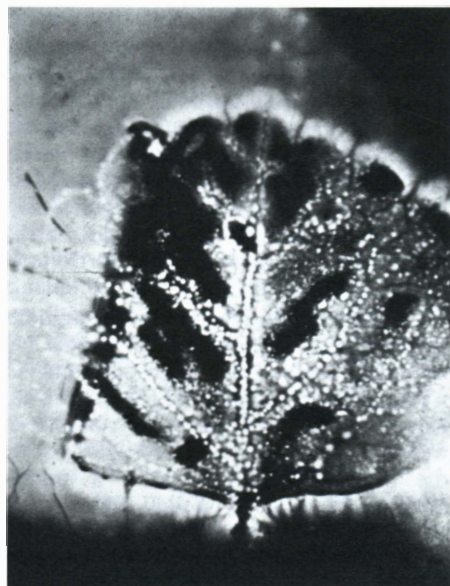
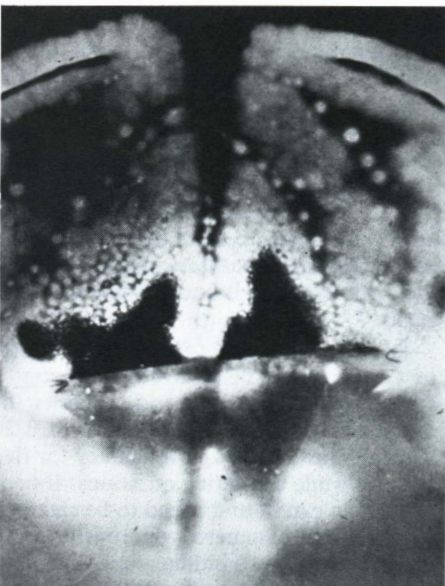
Tiller of the Department of Materials Science, Stanford University, has since been satisfied with the scientific protocol under which phantom EP effects have been produced by Western researchers, eliminating the electrostatic theory. Instead, he suggests that ionised gas emission from the cut leaf results in streamer discharges which, curiously, are contained within the shape of the original leaf.

He speculates that a form of mechanical

Normal Kirlian picture (left) of an entire Coleus leaf. After part of Coleus leaf has been cut away it is re-photographed. The mutilation has caused changes in the leaf's internal structure pattern. (Photos: Thelma Moss.)



Left: a near-phantom appears where part of a Plectanthus Australia (Creeping Charlie) has been cut away. Right: an impressive phantom effect with the same type of leaf, produced by Kendall Johnson. The patterning extends to an area of leaf that is missing.



resonance may account for the effect. The significance of the "phantom" will be debated for a long time, until someone manages to discover how to produce it every time. It used to be a rare event, but now American researcher Robert Wagner is succeeding in getting 66 phantoms out of every 100 cut leaves photographed.

The area that promises greater discoveries is in the corona's apparent ability to reflect the condition of the mind and body. Whatever causes the EP effect does appear to give an early warning of illness. Leonard Konikewitz¹ is said to be able to detect cystic fibrosis carriers with a 95 per cent degree of accuracy. S. Mallikarjun² is also said to have had a high degree of success in detecting breast cancer. In the case of Dr David Sheinkin, the lack of a corona in his patients has proved to be an accurate way of detecting psychotics.

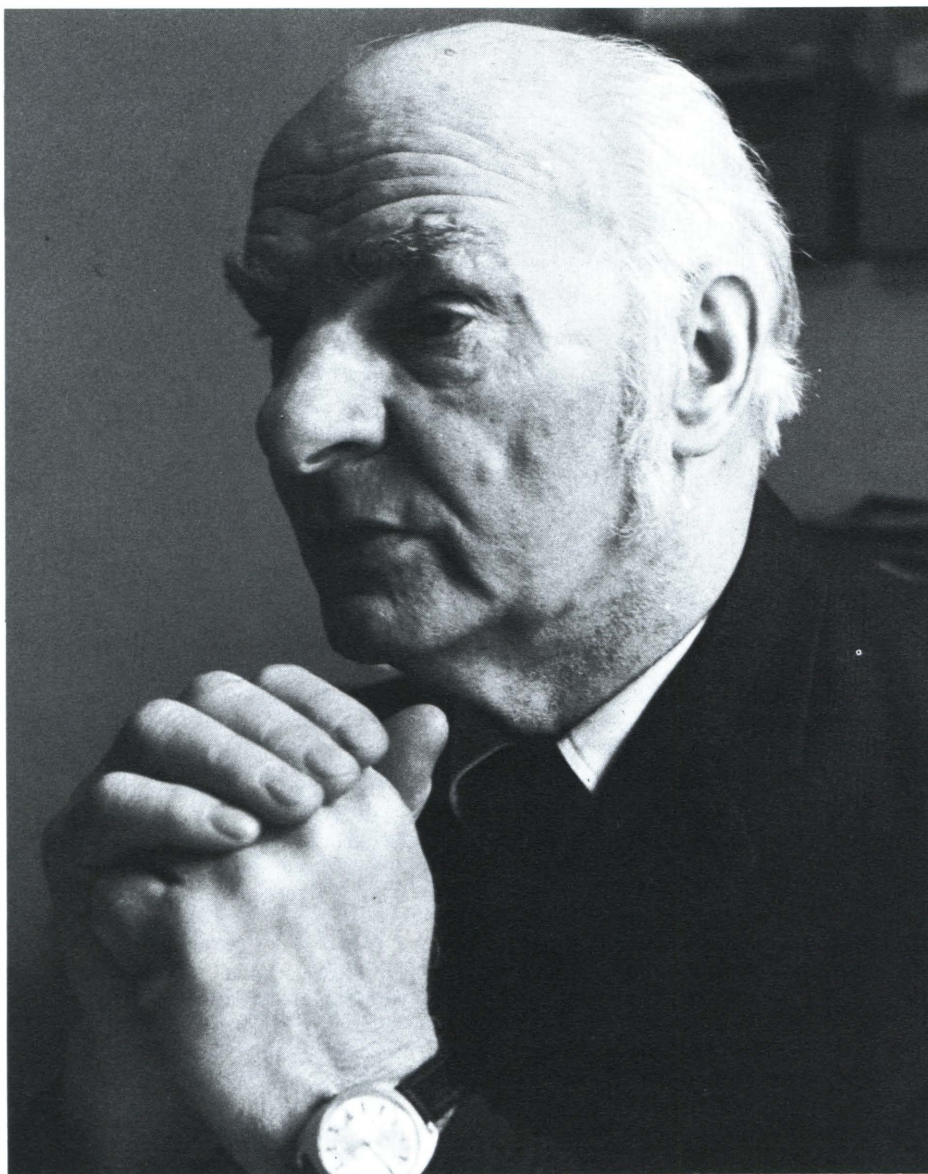
But each researcher seems to have made different discoveries and because so many parameters need to be kept constant (and so many different methods of producing EP pictures are being used) the research work is not yet producing sufficient replication to be totally satisfying.

The major controversy, however, centres not on the interpretation of corona but on its cause. Numerous projects have been conducted to see if hand pressure, temperature, perspiration, galvanic skin response, or other physical factors cause the interesting changes which occur when, for example, an individual's hand is monitored by electro-photography over a period of time. Sweat has been regarded as the most likely culprit. But it could be, of course, that mental or physical illness may manifest itself in a subtle way, such as by secreting more sweat, and that EP is a very useful early-diagnosis tool.

A much stronger criticism of EP work suggests that no such thing is happening at all, and that what researchers are witnessing when they get different or changing results is their own inability to keep all the parameters constant. When Prof Tiller and an associate, David Boyers, a doctoral graduate in electrical engineering, witnessed some EP research work being carried out they detected many sources of error.

They set about designing their own equipment so that they could more precisely control the many variables that might influence results. They found that by varying the parameters they could produce a wide range of fascinating EP effects, but when they kept everything constant the EP pictures were unchanged. They concluded: "From our studies, the use of Kirlian photography as a physiological state monitoring device has not been found to be effective."

Stan Gooch quotes their 1974 findings in his book, *The Paranormal* (Wildwood House, 1978) and dismisses EP research out of hand: "If we are talking in the context of scientific research – and we are talking in that context – at this point the Kirlian band-wagon has to be brought to a halt. It may only be started again *if* and when other workers, using the Tiller and Boyers apparatus, can once more produce



John Williamson: adamant that commercial interests should not turn Kirlian photography into a cult.

their own earlier results. Pending that day, all previous results, and still more so all the theories based on them, must be held in suspension. In blunter terms, they must be scrapped."

Unfortunately, Gooch's sweeping dismissal of EP work does not reflect the true situation because Tiller has since written: "I am very happy to report that some of the conclusions concerning the poor utility of Kirlian as a physiological state monitor may have been premature." In his explanation of why this is so, Tiller admits that the range of his special instrument (100 KHz to 1 MHz) was probably not right to carry out the attempt to duplicate the work of others. (No reference to Tiller's later comments is contained in the paperback version of Gooch's book which has just been published by Fontana).

But while many researchers seek to understand what is happening with EP effects, and whether they are capable of being repeated by others, there are some individuals who have taken a giant leap forward and claim to be able to use EP pictures as a basis for advice on a whole range of personal and commercial matters.

Brian Snellgrove, for example, has

worked alone in EP research in Britain for several years and has come up with what he claims is a method of hand (and feet) analysis using EP prints. Visitors to the Festival for Mind, Body & Spirit will have seen him and his team making EP prints and giving readings. Now he has produced a book *The Unseen Self: Your Hidden Potential*, written with his wife Marita (published by him at £2.50) which outlines the development of EP work and gives a do-it-yourself guide to corona analysis.

A quick glance at your EP handprints will tell you if you have healing ability, if you are lazy, if you are doing the right job, what unused talents you possess and what potentials you are suppressing. It could be, of course, that Snellgrove has made a most remarkable discovery, in which case it will be just a matter of time before crystal balls, tarot cards and palmistry are all swept away to be replaced by EP machines at the end of the pier. But it does also seem remarkable that while others have been beaver- ing away for years and are still uncertain about what the EP auras are trying to tell them, Snellgrove has come up with apparently all the answers – at least, for the type of EP technique he uses.



Brian Snellgrove claims to be able to tell you your hidden talents and potential from prints like this.

His book, incidentally, refers in a caption to the work of a dynamic Roumanian researcher, Dr I. Dumitresku. The good doctor, according to Snellgrove, has a team of 39 people working for him and he is "only one of 1,000 fully trained scientists and 52,000 assistants working in the Eastern Block (sic) on the Kirlian Effect." He doesn't say where his information comes from—but with that many people working on the problem we should know all the answers by tomorrow! Dumitresku, incidentally, uses 14 different EP techniques in his work.

In the USA, Dr Thelma Moss has produced some fascinating EP results, particularly with the effects of drugs and alcohol on the corona. On one occasion a medical student volunteered to visit her laboratory to get drunk. He had to drink one ounce of bourbon every 15 minutes, after which an EP print was taken. The first picture showed a sketchy corona, typical of nervousness. After drinking 17 ounces of bourbon the corona was "all lit up". So was the student, of course, and after being very sick he was carried from the laboratory on a stretcher.

The Department of Research of the Society of Metaphysicians has just come up with a new but simple technique for producing EP results, called electrography. Founder-president John Williamson explains that it is much simpler than Kirlian photography and far easier to evaluate. It is not a photographic process because it does not require light. The method is this:

"An electric charge is 'sprayed' onto an insulating card. The object to be tested is placed on the charged card and, after a few moments, it is removed. The charge on the card is modified by emanations from the objects used, thereby creating an invisible

pattern of charge on the card. This electric image is then made visible by emersing the card in a special solution which deposits black particles on the surface."

Williamson adds that these electrography pictures appear to have three major characteristics:

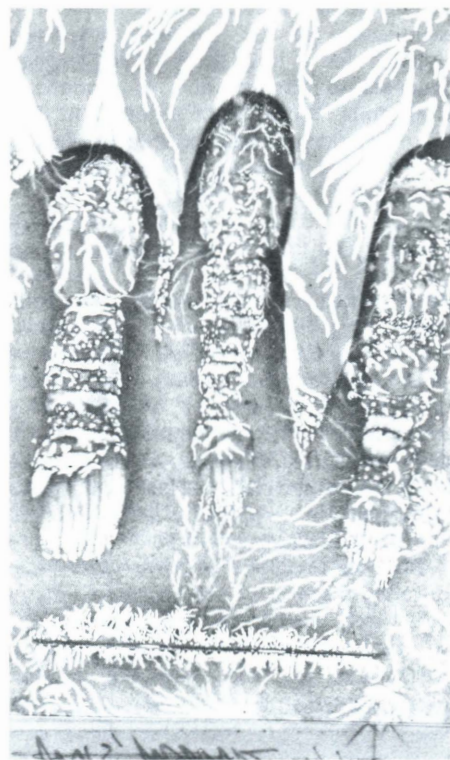
1. Sac-like globules which appear to be "bags of energy"; something like reptiles' eggs.
2. Long fern-like tendrils which can either be leakage paths of energy or energy-channels sucking up energy.
3. Special areas between the sacs and tendrils in which strange images and shapes appear. It is here that the major interest is focused.

If a leaf is placed on the charged plate, says Williamson, the central area produces pictures of tiny plants emerging first on the surface of the energy sacs and then apparently growing into almost three-dimensional forms.

This new EP technique was developed by M. Payne and was used publicly for the first time this year at the Festival for Mind, Body & Spirit. Some 600 people were tested with the equipment and Williamson was satisfied after 100 trials that the voltage levels "were low enough to permit 'thought projection' and psychic energy to have their effects." Healers and others skilled in mental control, he reports, were able to obtain projections of energy around the fingers.

This EP method, according to the Society of Metaphysicians, has already produced thought pictures of a car, a tall house with a light in a window, and a cat.

John Williamson believes that electrography has added an important new chapter to the fascinating history of EP development which goes back over more than a century. He is also adamant that



A print of the back of a hand using M. Payne's recently developed EP process.

"commercial interests should not turn Kirlian and his work into another cult, to the detriment of genuine research." And on the subject of sloppy research he points to pictures of metal crosses with a flood of energy pouring from the points, which is "just what one expects from normal corona discharge and bears no evidence of anything but brush-like leakage . . ."

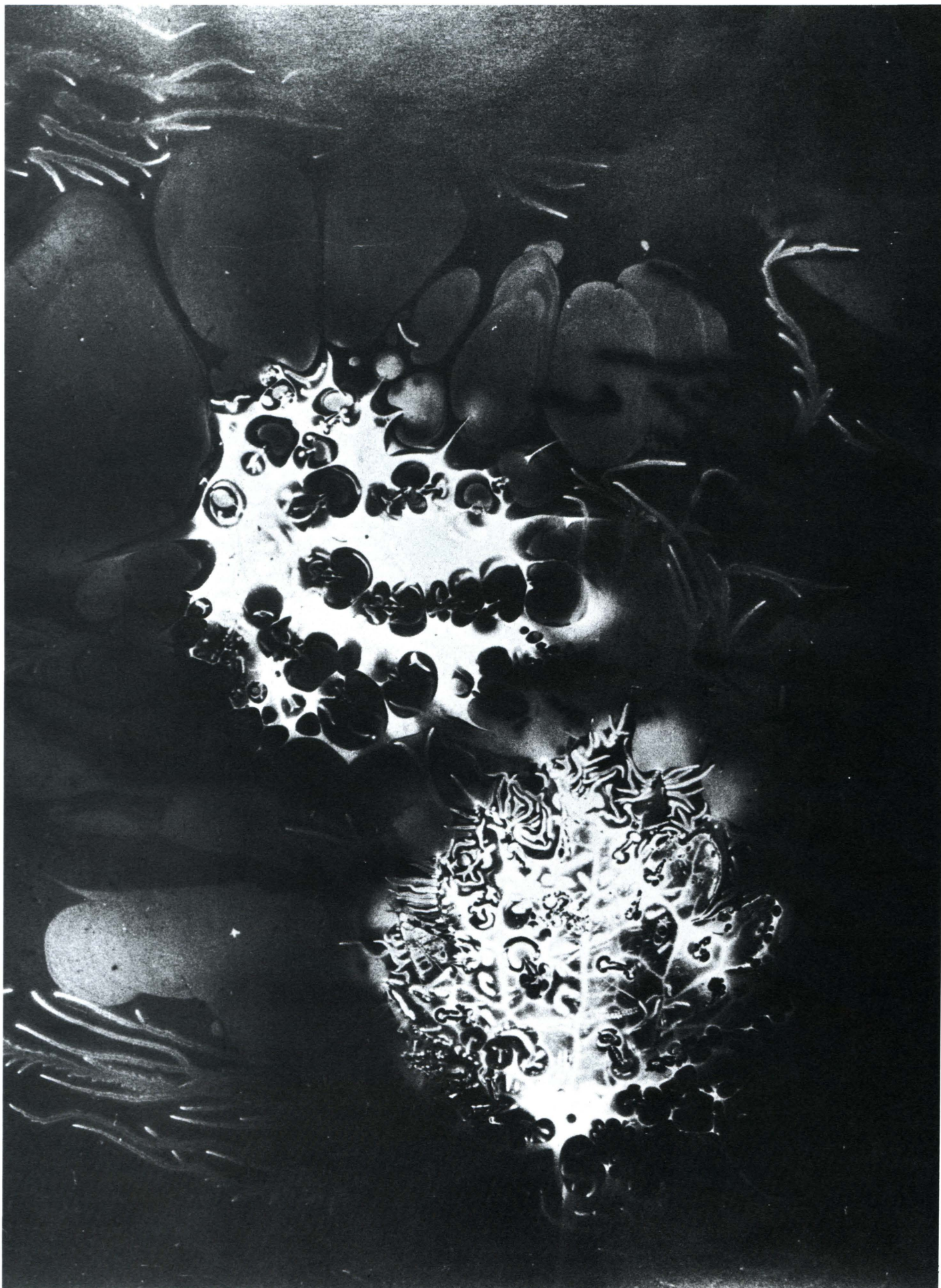
The Society has begun a new development and research programme of electrography work, with activity in the London and Bournemouth areas. It is a sobering thought that the EP effect was first discovered 137 years ago by an English man named Carston. Nikola Tesla was also producing them in 1893 but it is only now that the possible implications are being vigorously researched, by private individuals and large institutions.

Meanwhile, we have to wait and see if EP pictures have brought us to the verge of important new diagnostic discoveries, and whether they also enable us to peer into the secrets of the mind. If the claims of some researchers are confirmed then the time may not be very far off when every doctor, recruitment officer and psychiatrist will have an EP machine on his desk to help him get to know you better. In which case, it will be just a short step to having computer analysis of your EP pictures done by post.

Whatever its future applications may be, there are a growing number of researchers who share the view that EP photography may lead us into a more profound understanding of the deepest processes of life.

¹Chief of the Audiovisual Department of Polyclinic Medical Centre, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

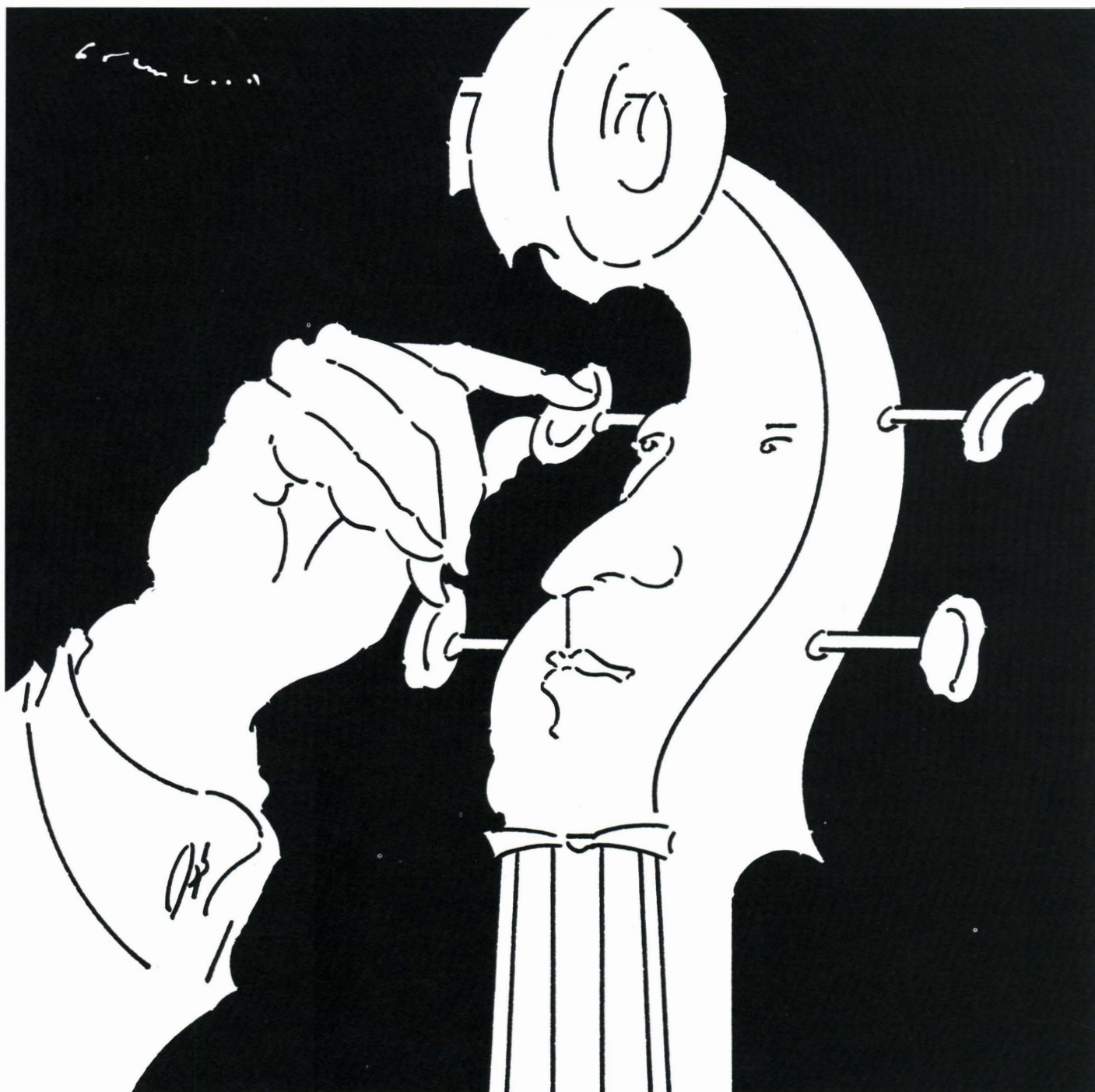
²Professor of physics, Monmouth College, Monmouth, New Jersey.



Sac-like globules, fern-like tendrils and other organic shapes are captured in this picture of two leaves taken with the EP process currently being investigated by the Society of Metaphysicians.

Talking sound sense

Music and noise can effect us more profoundly for good or ill than we realise. Steven Halpern tells Alpha about his research and prescription for sound health.



OUTSIDE, the traffic whined and snarled its way past Olympia, making its distracting presence felt despite the intervening walls, closed windows and doors. Now and again there was a detectable shudder in the building. Even the bricks and mortar were not immune to the racket.

It was a good example of what Steven Halpern was saying in one of Olympia's lecture theatres about the effect of noise, the unwanted, unwelcome end of the sound spectrum. You just can't turn it off.

It shakes you to your foundations even when you're not listening to it with your ears.

A 31-year-old Manhattan-born musician-cum-psychologist with a penchant for puns, Halpern was talking about sound health at this year's Festival for Mind, Body and Spirit. What he was saying went far beyond the obvious: that noise irritates while music and the sound of rustling leaves are agreeable. His message was that sound, in its many manifestations, affects us profoundly. Become aware of the

harmful effects and avoid them. Wake up to the therapeutic value of certain kinds of music and use it to stimulate well-being and inner harmony. Sound sense, Halpern might have quipped.

He is a pioneer of a form of music which has stirred the interest of a wide range of people, from therapists to housewives and massage teachers to meditators. Halpern's music is unlike anything most people have ever heard. Far from being demanding, it is soothingly simple with a gentle, relaxing flow calculated to unwind the tensions of

modern life. It is music to be transported by – not, though, to destinations you will have visited before.

"I've composed the Spectrum Suite and the other music in my Soundscape series to help people find that calm and peaceful centre inside us all," he explained. He has described his compositions as "an anti-frantic alternative to the noise pollution and stress-producing music" that is churned out today. What's more, as well as talking of its natural harmonising effect Halpern claims that it has a very real curative value. Symington Cancer Research Centre in Texas and California's Kaiser hospitals are some of the places where this effect is being studied.

There is a long tradition of using music with a purposeful ritualistic intent. "Chants," he insists with a characteristically sharp ear for a play on words, "didn't happen by chance." They were created to produce particular effects: altered states of consciousness and trance-like states or as aids to meditation, as with Zen temple music. Mystical notions that everything in the universe is in a state of vibration go back to the East and the Yogic tradition. Today, thanks to the work of physicists and others interested in the nature and impact of sound, the idea is not so far-fetched.

In his book, *Tuning The Human Instrument*, Halpern describes the work of Dr Hans Jenny who produced graphic evidence of the way different sounds generate different physical forms in liquids, metal filings and powders activated by variations in pitch. "The intriguing point about 'Cymatics', the name Jenny chose to describe this study, is that 'inorganic' matter, vibrated simply with sound, produces 'organic' shapes!" A rising scale was matched by new harmonic patterns in the materials scattered on the discs, many evocative of organic forms such as the pentagonal stars of sea urchins, the hexagonal cells of honeycombs and the spirals of the nautilus.

Thus, as well as being shattering at certain levels – so that an opera singer with a powerful voice can destroy a glass once the right resonating note is found – sound can have an ordering effect. "That's exactly what some mantras and incantations are designed to do."

Although modern science has underwritten the beliefs of previous centuries, Halpern appeals mainly to the experiential reports of those who have attended his workshops and lectures to illustrate that certain musical sounds evoke particular sorts of responses.

"My music seems to work across the board, regardless of race, religion, age and sex. I'm surprised how quickly people are able to react to it," he says.

"People who meditate have been able to access deeper levels when they move in to meditation through the music."

There is little doubt that most people find the music he plays soothing, but he is more specific in his claims. Following his experimental work, he believes that there are more complex associations such as



"Chants," insists Steven Halpern, "did not come about by chance." They have an ordering effect on mind and matter.

those suggested by Isaac Newton and others between sound and colour. Starting with middle C at 26.2 cycles per second, Halpern maintains that there is a direct correspondence between the notes of the scale and the colour spectrum, from red to indigo. Not only that, but this also ties in with the seven Chakra centres of the body, the etheric energy centres of the Yoga tradition.

His *Spectrum Suite* follows the seven tone centres of the ascending scale. 'If you focus on that area of your body which is being resonated by the tones, you will probably be able to visualise the colours,' he suggests.

While he uses an electric piano for this work, other examples of his recorded music co-opts a range of instruments, ancient and modern. *Eastern Peace* employs the tamboura, an Indian string instrument, bamboo flute and string bass. Elsewhere he uses harp, violin and guitar. But whatever the instruments, the music has the same kind of floating, wandering quality. It is not much use looking for the kind of thrill you would expect from a conventional composition, of whatever tradition. Halpern's music deliberately avoids rhythms and harmonic progressions that lead you from A to B and arouse expectations of recapitulations of themes and developments.

Melodic lines tend to be minimal. They emerge only to evaporate into another pattern like smoke rising from a chimney. That really is its charm. It draws you along, without ever suggesting that something portentous is about to happen. Yet the best of it is far from bland. What the music might lack in melodic and harmonic boldness, it gains in subtle shades and overtones. The sounds themselves are soft, with audible and lingering harmonics that float above the primary tones creating a rich, chordal background.

Halpern's interest in music developed during his youth. While he never studied full time, he took lessons privately and played with various college bands. "I took my own route." He recalls one incident, in 1965, which made him think hard about the nature of musical inspiration and set off a whole chain of ideas. "I was playing trumpet with a band when things really happened. Afterwards, people asked me, How did you do that? I realised the music wasn't coming from me, but through me."

Significantly as it turned out, part of our interview took place on the way to a Rosemary Brown concert. That sparked off another anecdote. "I was looking through a record shop one day when one of her records jumped out at me off a shelf." It gave a whole new perspective to his own idea of other worldly inspiration. "Some of my music I feel is inspired like that." Other compositions come to him in meditative states.

Following his observations of the effect of music on live audiences as a professional musician in the 1960's, Halpern began to study psycho-acoustics, the physiological and psychological effects of sound in more depth. It formed part of his work for a Ph.D. in the psychology of music, in particular, its relaxing, restorative powers.

He pursued this with his own workshops and research, under the banner of the Spectrum Research Institute, Palo Alto, California. Using Kilrian photography to capture pictures of the electro-magnetic field around the body, he claims that 95

"I realised that the music wasn't coming from me but through me."

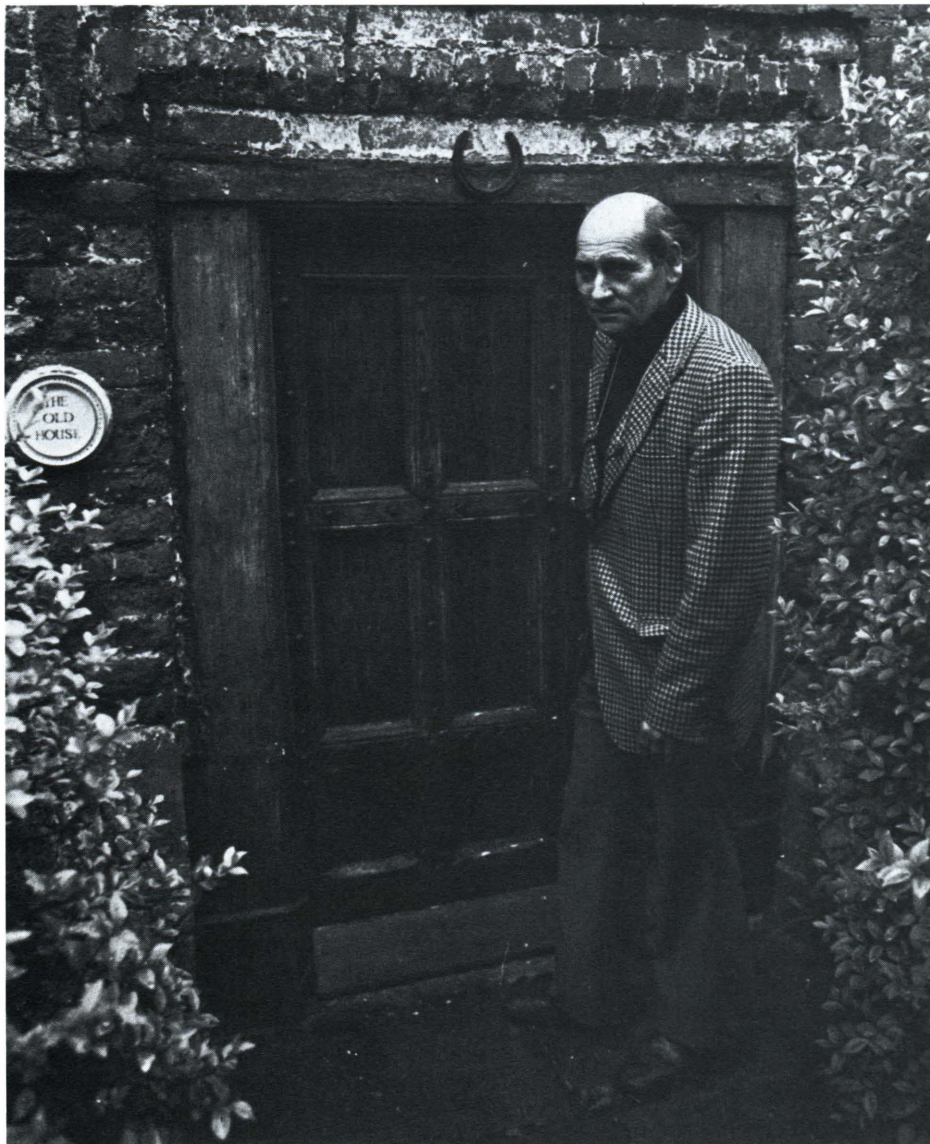
per cent of those who took part in an experiment to see if there were any measurable changes as a result of listening to his calming music showed a positive response.

Over the years, he has also been active on another front: making people aware of the negative effect of sound pollution. Many of the contraptions with which we surround ourselves produce undesirable effects. Some, like fluorescent lighting and fridges, almost subliminally. "But they do their damage just the same," says Halpern. He's not suggesting we drink sour milk and eat rancid butter. What he is trying to get across is the necessity of becoming aware of the harmful effects of unwanted sound and taking steps to minimise or avoid noise. You only have to stop and listen to western industrial society's civilised way of life to hear what he's talking about. As for retuning yourself, you could do worse than taking some of Steve Halpern's musical medicine.

If you are interested in learning more about Steve Halpern's work, details of his tapes, records and books can be obtained from Angela's Yoga Books, 445 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1TR or from 1775 Old County Road, (14), Belmont, CA 94002.

The Old House haunting

Psychic researcher Tony Cornell has investigated a house where the ghostly happenings rival those of the famous Borley Rectory haunting – with apparitions of priests and soldiers and strange sounds in the night.



Tony Cornell: at the threshold of a house with a haunting reputation.

IN A village not many miles north of Cambridge, there is an old red-bricked house dating from 1520 in which some eight different apparitions have been seen by 12 people. Numerous auditory effects have also been experienced, such as footsteps, the sound of horses, the playing of a lute, and a sword fight in the upper gallery.

It is a house of atmosphere, not malevolent or hostile, but which provides present-day occupants with glimpses of its previous history and human drama.

My attention was first drawn to its psychic activity in 1952 when the then owner rang me and said he had seen the apparition of a Cromwellian soldier standing framed in the doorway of the front room. The figure was dressed in a floppy hat,

wore a leather jacket, was bearded and had a smile on his face.

Mr L observed, before it slowly faded away, that he could see only the top half of the figure. There was nothing visible from its waist downwards, but he noticed that it was fair-haired and colourful. Like the first experience, the second, which was almost identical, happened on a Sunday morning at about 10 o'clock and whilst it did not frighten Mr L, it gave him cause for thought as he had never seen a ghost before.

He was diffident about telling his wife of the experience in case it alarmed her but he did so eventually, some months later, only to find that she had seen the ghost of a woman flit along the hall, some weeks previously. Mr L died in 1954 and his

widow sold the house, saying nothing to anybody about the experiences she and her husband had had.

In January, 1955, the house was bought and occupied by a Dr D, his wife and two children, R and S, and an aged relative, Mrs H. From the second day of their occupation, things began to happen. Footsteps were heard; the figure of a roundhead was seen to descend some steps at the back of the house by Mrs H; and knocking on the heavy oak back door was heard several times, but no one was found to be there.

In February the sound of a sword fight was heard coming from the upper part of the house. The sounds of a lute and singing, and footsteps at night when everybody was in bed, were also heard. A small girl dressed in white was seen walking out of the cloakroom by Mrs. D.

In March of the same year loud noises were heard by four of the family coming from the kitchen. Objects such as a dressing gown hanging on a door were seen to suddenly start swinging back and forth; more footsteps were heard and the son, R, who had been particularly sceptical of all the reported events, saw the figure of a girl in white in his car headlights as he drove up to the house late at night.

Throughout May, June and August of 1955, figures, noises and other inexplicable occurrences were experienced by the family and visitors. Apparitions were seen collectively by the family although most of the psychical manifestations were experienced by Mrs D. Her husband Dr D, who was sceptical, having never seen anything before in his life, saw the figure of a priest grow out of the floor to a height of some five feet whilst he lay awake at night.

In July, 1956, a Mr L agreed to take some photographs of the daughter and her horse in the garden. This was accomplished with some difficulty as the horse, normally a passive animal, was very restless. The photographs, when developed, were shown to family and some enlargements asked for. When he was developing the enlargements the photographer noticed a particular patch of the shrubbery in the background of the photograph appeared to show a likeness to that of a human figure. Examination of the negative and prints revealed nothing but the light and shade of the morning sunlight on the leaves of the bushes, but at an angle and at arm's length, one can indeed make out the portrait of a cavalier.

From 1957 onwards, other psychical happenings were experienced. Mrs H had died in April, 1956, and was seen walking in the garden in June, 1958, by Mrs D and her husband from different angles. Mrs D

saw Mrs H in the garden through the front window whilst Dr D saw the figure in the garden whilst he was in his car waiting for the traffic to allow him to turn into the driveway of the house.

Since the death of Dr D in April, 1972, little of significance has occurred. Mrs D had the house blessed and now lives alone in it. There have been a number of peculiar and odd things happen since then but nothing as outstanding as the experiences between 1952 and 1958.

All the above is a sketch, only, of a very interesting case, which if half of what has occurred can be substantiated makes the famous Borley Rectory haunting pale into insignificance. It has received a certain amount of local publicity and consequently some embroidery of events, but 80 per cent of the reported inexplicable events were recorded at the time in a diary by Mrs D, and the collective experiences of the family substantiate much of what we require by way of psychical standards of investigation.

There is some evidence that previous owners of the house prior to 1949 had seen ghostly figures and heard peculiar noises. These events were not recorded in any way and only came to light after the D family's experiences became public knowledge. One cannot, therefore, place too much credence upon the reports that a Dr B, an antiquarian bookseller, who owned the house prior to 1949, did see and hear things although his relatives state that he did.

A previous owner, who occupied the house before the war, was adamant that neither he nor his wife had ever experienced anything that could not be explained by normal means.

The case presents some very interesting aspects, not least of all the multiplicity of happenings. Of the people interviewed, who have experienced the visual and auditory phenomena between 1949 and 1959, 50 per cent were highly sceptical yet admitted they saw figures and heard sounds that they could not account for. In the case of those whom I would describe as



Mrs D, still aware of odd happenings.

believers and more than sympathetic to the suggestion that the house was haunted, the majority of their experiences were witnessed in the company of others who were far from believers and who attempted to find a rational explanation but, in most instances, failed to do so.

The majority of their experiences were witnessed by others

I have not named the village or the people involved because it may well be that future owners of the house may have similar psychical experiences, in which case it would be best for them not to know too much of what has gone before. In the past the visual and auditory effects have manifested themselves strongly within the first six months of the new owner's residence. This may be a pattern which will occur again.

There is no evidence of a historical

nature to explain any of the apparitions seen; other than that of Mrs H and a clergyman who was very fond of the house, the shades of the past such as the Cromwellian, the little girl in white and the roundhead, can only be associated with the age of the house which boasts of a priests' hide and clearly was more than just a farm house in its earlier days.

An attempt in 1965 by a well-known medium to explain the cause of the haunting proved to be a complete failure. Following a short BBC radio account of what the D family had experienced, the medium wrote to the BBC giving a description of what would be found if half the back yard of the house was dug up, claiming that human remains buried there were the cause of the troubles. Half the back yard was dug up and nothing found.

There are other factors of a detailed nature which space does not allow us to dwell upon, but which suggest that we have here a case that is not entirely place-centered as opposed to person-centered. Clearly Mrs D was the psychic trigger for what happened between 1955 and 1958, but neither Mr or Mrs L, between 1949 and 1953, can be described as having triggered anything off by their conscious attitudes.

What we need to know in this case, as in many others, is whether the presence of a human being is an essential ingredient to the manifestation of apparitions and physical effects. Are the forces involved provided by the physical presence of a human being or can they and do they manifest in the absence of a human observer? The purpose of such manifestations would seem in most cases, but not all, to be to draw human attention to their presence.

One could argue that leaving visual and auditory equipment in a house to record psi happenings in the absence of a human presence would provide the means of drawing human attention to such manifestations, when the equipment was played back and it may be that the energy required would be drawn from other than human sources. No attempt has yet been made along these lines in the house we are discussing. It has, however a sufficiency of psychical potential—if that is the right description—to allow us to do much more.

Unfortunately, in spite of many visits to the house, no investigator has ever seen or heard anything, other than some odd sounds difficult to account for, but insufficient in their abnormality to warrant a psychic classification. It is, however, houses of this type which offer material for investigation and a chance, by the use of equipment, to determine whether such phenomena are generated by places or people.

We know insufficient about this aspect, in spite of the long history of human experience in this area of the paranormal. A concentrated effort should be made by the use of modern sophisticated equipment to determine the source of energy responsible and thereby, perhaps, further our knowledge of what causes such fascinating phenomena as those experienced in the Old House haunting.



The scene of past ghostly events in the house.

Taking no chance with Einstein

As we celebrate the centenary of Albert Einstein's birth, and acknowledge society's debt to the great scientific genius, Edgar Tooke looks at the deeper implications of the famous physicist's theories.

MOST people know how nuclear power, with its mixture of benefits and blasphemy, was fathered by Albert Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity. Not all students of the occult, however, may have noted the psychic significance of other aspects of Einstein's work. Yet the implications have all the explosive quality of the atomic bomb.

One of the corner-stones of modern physics is Max Planck's Quantum Theory and it was for his contributions to the development and extension of this theory that Einstein received his Nobel Prize. Light and other forms of electromagnetic radiation had hitherto been regarded as continuous waves in a mysterious medium called "ether". This concept gave rise to major theoretical problems.

With the inception of the quantum theory, however, these problems were overcome. Energy came in minute packages or "Quanta", separated by gaps. It was discontinuous. True, waves might still exist – even matter turned out to have wave-characteristics – but, if anything, they were mere "waves of probability" – the probability of finding particles where you were looking for them.

By forsaking the idea of physical continuity the quantum theory denied the possibility of tracing the process by which cause led on to effect. The new concept dethroned the 19th century mechanistic outlook. Determinism was replaced by uncertainty, for the intermediate links in the causal chain are hidden – not by lack of scientific knowledge, but by the very nature of matter itself. Causation had slipped out of sight into the quantum gaps.

The change in mood in physics is expressed in Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. Nevertheless effects occur, whether or not we can follow their precise process, and scientists needed to maintain their long tradition of objective observation and prediction, to bridge the quantum gaps and preserve an orderly, rational universe. Omni-science might be abandoned but self-respect had to be salvaged.

Science achieved this more modest aim by inventing Probability Theory. Individual events might be indeterminate, but if one examines enough of them one might still study the present and predict the future with a fair degree of confidence. The larger the number of events examined, the greater the percentage of accuracy to be expected. Kick a passing dog and there is no way of telling whether it will bite or run away: kick a thousand and the chances of losing the seat of one's pants can be estimated with a fair degree of precision.

But Einstein was not only a brilliant



"What really interests me is whether God had any choice in the creation of the world" – Albert Einstein, physicist and violin player.

physicist; he had the soul of an artist. To him a theory should have elegance, an aesthetic beauty. The quantum theory, with its offspring the probability laws, had neither. The statistical "explanation" of the world was anathema. God, argued Einstein, did not play dice with the world – blind chance could not rule. Causes were there, even if we had temporarily lost sight of them.

The Born-Einstein letters highlight the difference between Einstein's view on this matter and those of other famous scientists, notably his friend and fellow Nobel Prizewinner Max Born, renowned for his work on "probability waves."

Whereas Einstein remained convinced of the ability of physics to furnish knowledge of the "objectively existing world", Born, on the other hand, had come to the conclusion as a result of his studies of atomic

quantum phenomena, that this could never be. Scientific knowledge of the objective world could be only a crude approximation of actuality. The laws of probability alone made the prediction of future conditions possible.

Einstein's desire for theoretical elegance led him to investigate the troublesome quantum gaps in an attempt to locate "hidden variables" which would reinstate causation at the heart of matter. Certain other great physicists followed suit – among them de Broglie, Schrödinger and Bohm. None of them succeeded. The search was abandoned.

With hindsight, we can now say this result was to be expected. As Nobel Prizewinner Werner Heisenberg observed: "When we get down to the atomic level, the objective world in time and space no longer exists." Or, as Professor Banesh

Hoffmann, one of Einstein's co-workers, said: "There is simply no satisfactory way at all of picturing the fundamental atomic processes of nature in terms of space and time and causality."

Where time does not exist, of course, one can hardly expect to discover *physical causation*, which after all is the influence of the past on the present and of the present on the future. In fact, one cannot expect to find *anything* of a physical nature in the quantum gaps—a view amplified recently by a scientist, Dr E. Harris Walker, who regarded hidden variables as "non-physical, but real entities" and succeeded in embodying them in a mathematical framework. (This is not, it should be noted, the same thing as actually *discovering* the hidden variables. Bertrand Russell, one of the greatest mathematicians of our era, said: "Physics is mathematical not because we know so much about the physical world, but because we know so little: it is only its mathematical properties that we can discover.")

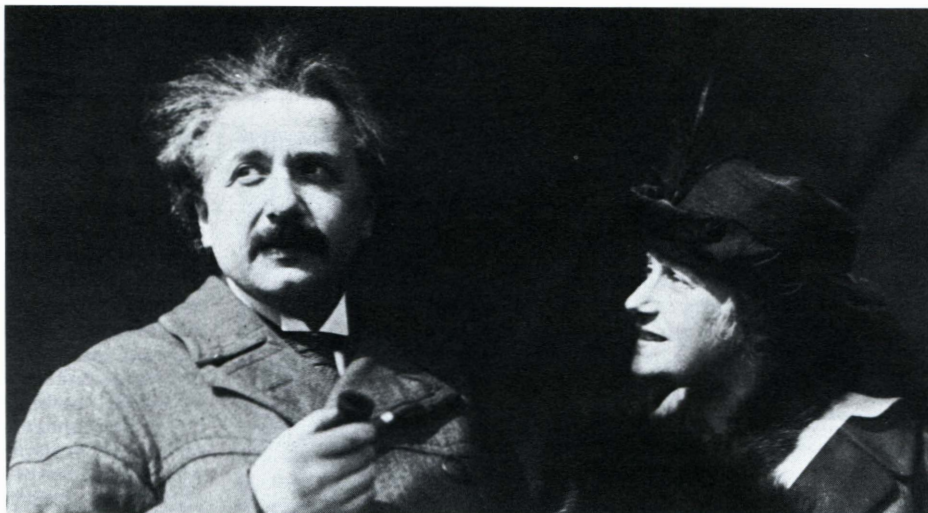
What is significant, then, from the occult point of view, is not Einstein's search for causation within the quantum gaps, but his failure to find it. Hence fundamental causes, by inference, seem to be non-physical—as occultists have always contended.

Mechanistic science follows *aetiological* practice, studying the processes of cause and effect in an immutable time-sequence. The absence of time in the quantum gaps leaves room for purpose—a *teleological* impulse urging creation onwards towards a predestined goal. Some theologians have proposed such a purpose—a First Cause referred to somewhat irreverently as a "god of the gaps", because He or It functions in the hazy interstices between the quantum particles.

A moment's thought, however, will show us that this is the only reasonable design for a universe intended to act as an arena for moral and spiritual struggle. Physical indeterminacy is essential if freewill is to operate. The self-sufficient mechanical universe postulated by the 18th-century mathematician Laplace, whose future could be totally predicted by advancing technology, would have no place in it for the development of man's more noble attributes. Einstein may have had something like this in mind when he observed: "What really interests me is whether God had any choice in the creation of the world."

The above arguments assume, of course, that there is such a thing as purpose in the universe, and it must be admitted that there are still die-hards in the scientific fraternity who would deny this: who regard such an entity as illusion. They prefer to think that all happenings are due to chance. Among them are the behaviourists of psychology, a creed particularly strong in America but with many adherents in this country.

The behaviourists seek to show that thought and purpose have no place in any realistic world-picture. To deal with the inanity of their outlook would be beyond the scope of one short article—an article which



What is significant from the occult point of view, is not Einstein's search for causation within the quantum gaps, but his failure to find it.

in any case is about Einstein—but a dry observation by Professor A.N. Whitehead is worth quoting: "Scientists animated by the purpose of proving that they are purposeless constitute an interesting subject for study."

Though not all of them are as extreme in their views as the behaviourists, many critics of ESP and the occult lean heavily on the idea of chance as an alternative "explanation" of phenomena which do not submit to rationalisation. One dictionary definition of chance is "the result of untraced causes", and this, we suspect, is what the critics usually mean. To infer a complete *absence* of causes would be to postulate a universe lacking in unity and consistency—a concept alien to the scientific spirit.

With the lessons of quantum physics before us we should be quite prepared to accept that many causes are not only untraced but untraceable—at least by the methods of science. The above quotations from Heisenberg and Hoffmann suggest that this is so.

In astronomy, too, "unknowability" seems to rule. Recent observations of orbital decay in the binary pulsar PSR 1913 + 16 led to the idea that this decay is caused by the radiation of gravity waves—ripples in space/time originally foreseen by Einstein. Nobody can form a mental picture of space/time, let alone ripples in it; yet here it is playing a part in causing a gigantic physical upheaval. A star system is losing energy due to radiation of gravity waves in an unimaginable medium. Physicists would probably be most hurt, however, if the obscure nature of this phenomenon led critics to claim that the orbits of the two pulsars were changing by chance!

Though one cannot picture space, with or without its time dimension, apparently it is quite an objective entity. As Professor John Wheeler, of "black hole" fame, observed in an interview with Peter Ustinov during the preparation of the BBC 2 TV programme which marked Einstein's centenary: "Space tells matter how to move and matter tells space how to curve."

The greatest curvature of space takes place in the vicinity of black holes whose conjectured existence is a product of Einstein's general theory of relativity. These are points, or "singularities", where all surrounding matter and energy is sucked in by a gravity so intense that even light with its enormous speed cannot escape. (This phenomenon, incredibly, was hinted at by Laplace 200 years ago.)

However, Cambridge theorist Stephen Hawking considers that black holes may conceivably explode. The problem is that what comes out of an exploding black hole is unlike what went in—and there is no way whatsoever of observing the process of transformation. Causes cannot be traced.

So the haze of uncertainty that surrounds the behaviour of quanta has its counterpart at the other end of the cosmic scale in the vast reaches of outer space. Once more time is a casualty for it ceases to exist in a black hole's mysterious depths. So again we have a doorway for causation of a transcendental nature.

Wherever we seek, within the quantum gaps or in the starry heavens, we find avenues by which purpose (with either a small or a capital 'p') may enter the universe undetected and order its affairs.

This intimate relationship between space, time and matter has a very interesting implication. It confirms the unity of all Creation in a way that empty space, inflexible time and isolated matter could not. It supports, in other words, time-honoured occult contentions; sanctioning such phenomena as sympathetic magic, astrology, psychokinesis and distant knowledge.

Nothing exists in isolation. The stars affect us and we affect the stars. "As above, so below"—the dictum of Hermes Trismegistus—becomes scientifically respectable.

How deep is the insight of such poets as Francis Thompson:

*When to the new eyes of thee
All things by immortal power,
Near or far,
Hiddenly
To each other linked are,
That thou canst not stir a flower
Without troubling of a star.*

ORACLE

Hiding his light?

THE things I do for *Alpha*! I heard the other day that an Eastern European couple were in town and might be worth meeting. It seemed that they were both psychic and were willing to be tested.

Which explains why, on a thundery afternoon in June, I was to be found wandering around a London flat, hand-in-hand with a small, rotund man. At least, I'm about to explain why.

The man concerned claimed to have the same mind-reading abilities as the famous Russian, Wolf Messing. I could hide an object in the room and when he came in he would be able to go straight to it.

That, I thought, would be very impressive and I suggested we tried it right away. He left the room, with his lady companion, and I slipped his throwaway lighter behind a paperback book on a bookshelf. I returned to my seat and called that I was ready.

They came in. The lady sat down, and the man asked me to take his wrist as this helped him. He then set about trying to home in on the hidden object by moving first in one direction, then in another, saying in a loud voice: "Is it this way?" "Is it this way?" "Is it high?" "Is it low?"

It did not take me long to realise that this was not a demonstration of psychic powers. And it surprised me that when he made a step in the direction of the bookcase, I quite involuntarily went with him. So I decided not to give any more physical clues at all but just retain in my mind a mental picture of where the lighter was hiding.

We must have covered every inch of the bed-sitter. Down on his knees around the bed, along the edges of the windowsill, in front of the fireplace, and even next to the bookshelves. But I'll say something for him: he knew when he was defeated. Even his companion, who went on a quick foray peering behind vases and boxes,

was unable to locate the item.

I confess that it was with some satisfaction that I went to retrieve the lighter. And with even greater satisfaction I turned down his offer to let *Alpha* stage a public demonstration of his incredible talents.

Fried alive?

IT WAS the same sense of loyalty to *Alpha* which took me to the North-East at the end of June to appear on a Tyne-Tees Television programme, "Friday Live", which was devoting one-and-a-half hours to the paranormal.

The programme's format is a successful one, combining a studio audience and guests with viewers' phone calls. Trouble was, the "Friday Live" team decided to try to cover the whole paranormal field, which was why, as well as me, there was a trio of clergymen, two actors and an actress, a black witch and her coven, a white witch and his "corn king", a gypsy fortune teller, and an assortment of other experts in their respective fields. Few of us had a chance to utter more than a sentence or two.

I'm sure the TV team were hoping for a confrontation between the black and white aspects of witchcraft, but the sparks didn't fly. In fact, the most impressive aspect of their appearance on the show was the puff of smoke which announced their arrival. Can't think why they were on the show, unless they misheard "Friday Live" for "Fried Alive".

The highlight of the show was undoubtedly the appearance of top medium Doris Fisher Stokes, who as well as giving a couple of impressive messages to guests in the studio was also able to give clairvoyance to telephone callers. Her aim was to comfort the bereaved and prove life after death, and as far as one could tell under the circumstances she was reasonably successful.

But the big moment came when the tape of the Yorkshire Ripper was played to her and she was in-

vited to give her impressions. I learned before the programme went out that the studio "was crawling with police" (I thought they were witches!) and it was hoped that prior publicity would encourage the murderer to telephone during the live transmission. He did not do so.

Police apparently followed up the impressions which Doris picked up and saw her privately next day. But, a month later, they appear to be no nearer finding the Ripper. It may have made fascinating television—but I don't think it taught viewers in the North-East very much about the paranormal.

Food for Forte

IN CASE you hadn't noticed, *Fortean Times*, the magazine which bills itself as "Stranger than Truth or Fiction", has changed its format and added a colour cover in a bid to reach a wider audience. It has also been made available through selected newsagents in the London area. The revamp has certainly added another dimension to the magazine's appeal.

Ironically for a magazine that delights in coincidences and other mischievous quirks of fate, editor Bob Rickard's plans to change the name to *Strange Phenomena* were scuppered.

Circles and stones

ANOTHER guest on the "Friday Live" TV show was clairvoyant Kim Tracey. She also listened to the Yorkshire Ripper tape and gave her impressions, and was even persuaded to pick a winner from the next day's race card. It was dismissed as "just a bit of fun", which was just as well. It came in fourth!

Kim specialises in fortune telling with rune stones and Waddington have just brought out a fortune telling game, based on her method of rune divination. Oddly, Stonehenge features on its cover. Kim claims that the famous stone circle has runic inscriptions which

give her tremendous vibrations.

But when *Daily Telegraph* feature writer Sandra Grant spoke to the assistant keeper at Stonehenge she was told: "Stonehenge has nothing to do with runes—the stones predate that alphabet by at least 500 years and the only inscriptions on them are modern graffiti." (DT, May 23.)

She has also made a record on the Free Range label but I haven't seen it in the pop charts yet. Which is surprising, really, because it is no worse than lot of other records.

Finally, a book has just been published by Sphere, *Secrets of The Runes*, in which she provides "a unique guide to prediction". It contains a foreword by BBC DJ Jimmy Young, who mentions that one of her predictions for the future is that Prince Charles will get married in 1979.

Ah well, you can't win them all.

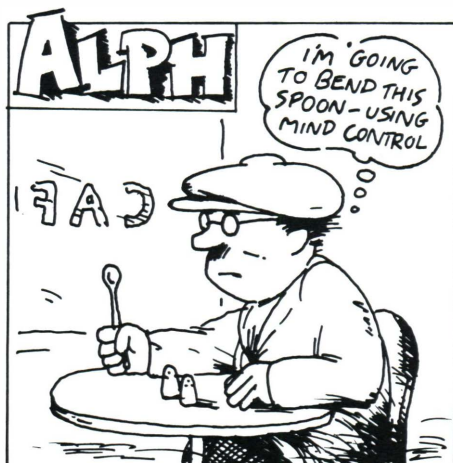
Medical healers

THOSE who hope that one day spiritual healing will be available as part of the National Health Service will be delighted with the news contained in the latest issue of the International Spiritualist Federation's *News Letter*. General Secretary, Bryan W. Fearon, reports that "therapeutic healing" or "laying-on-of-hands" is being taught to American nurses.

He adds: "More than 4,000 health professionals are claimed to have been trained by Dr Dolores Krieger, of New York, who has formed the Nurse Healers-Professional Associates Co-operative."

Psychic boob?

THE introduction to *Woman's Own's* special "psychic directory", which it featured in its July 7 issue, sounded promising. "Once upon a time," it declared, "the word psychic conjured up visions of little ladies with big earrings sitting in seaside tents. Now the psychic scene has taken a more serious turn and offers a complete



KEN COX

range of services from spiritual healing to advice on happiness."

So far, so good. And what are these "serious" services it offers? The magazine spoke to 20 different practitioners and organisations, some of whom have a well-earned reputation in their field.

But it included a lady who reads men's nude silhouettes and animal's paws, and a gentleman who does breast and navel readings.

We've certainly come a long way since the seaside fortune-tellers... but is it for the better?

Family support

REMEMBER our story in the first issue of *Alpha* about the remarkable healing medium George Chapman? When he is in a trance Chapman is apparently taken over by the spirit of a long-dead ophthalmic surgeon, William Lang. It may sound outrageous but Lang's daughter and granddaughter are among the people who have testified that it is Lang who speaks through Chapman's lips.

Now comes news that yet another member of the Lang family has taken an interest in this remarkable healing partnership. After many years of correspondence between Chapman and Gavin Dunlop, who is William Lang's great grandson, a meeting was arranged for Dunlop and Lang at St Brides, the healer's home in Aylesbury.

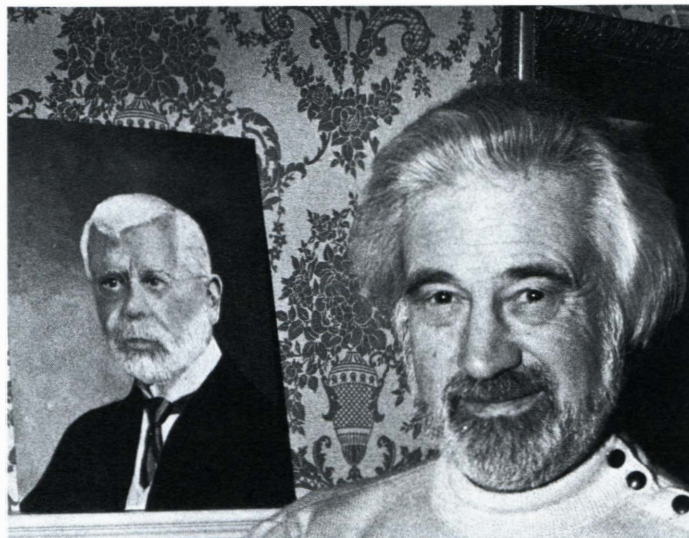
It happened last year and Gavin Dunlop wrote afterwards, from his home in South Africa, that it was "tremendous fun seeing again so many familiar pieces of furniture, pictures, books, etc, and remembering them from so long ago - and more recently in the case of those which Lyndon Lang had in day-to-day use."

Gavin Dunlop is referring to the furniture and possessions belonging to Lang and his daughter, Lyndon, which have been passed to Chapman as an acknowledgment of his partnership with the dead surgeon.

Now a fine portrait of William Lang has arrived at Chapman's home, painted by the dead surgeon's great grandson. Many other artists have painted Lang's portrait but Gavin remarks in a covering letter:

"None of the paintings I have seen in your house do him justice. That is quite natural as they are based on guesswork as to his colouring and complexion. He did, in fact, have a nice fresh rosy complexion under his white, fairly close-trimmed beard, and I believe I have brought this out. Anyway, it is exactly as I remember him in the early 20s."

He also adds the personal note, to Chapman, that it is "very comforting to know that we can always turn to you, if in need, for a consultation with Dr Lang, or for distant healing."



Healer George Chapman with a portrait of his spirit helper, surgeon William Lang, painted by Lang's great grandson.

ALPHA CROSSWORD

This crossword has been specially compiled for *Alpha* readers, by Eleusis. There's a £5 prize for the first correct entry to be opened on October 5. The answers will be published in our next issue. Please address your entry to "Crossword No. 1", *Alpha*, 20 Regent Street, Fleet, Hants GU13 9NR, and attach your name and address to your completed entry.

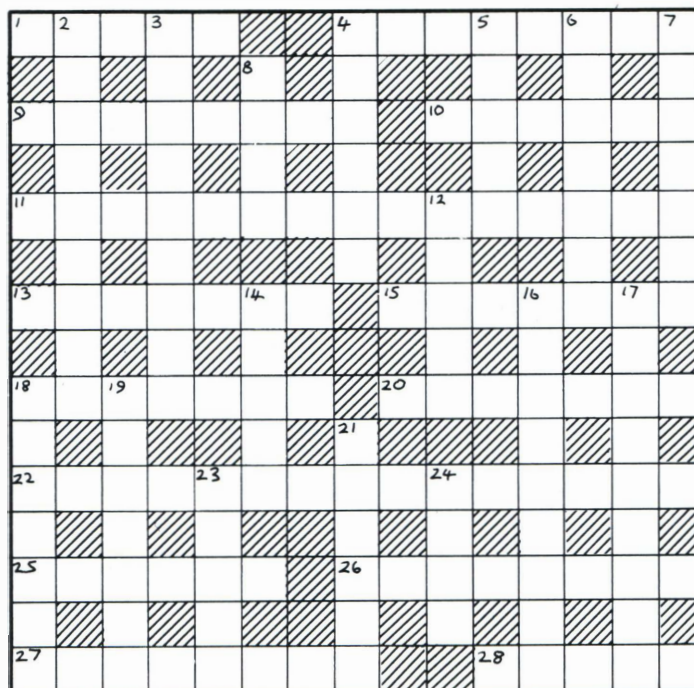
CLUES ACROSS

1. Fairy-folk in steel vests (5)
4. Changes Version D, keeps rolling! (6,2)
9. Those who give off double hesitations? (8)
10. Test a chromosome in trout. (3-3)
11. Quick look at broken silent film, "Pegge". (8,7)
13. Opening a letter. (7)
15. Part in a serial happening in sleep is Odetta. (7)
18. Squared pieces of masonry made of ash (and some of poplars). (7)
20. Unusual place is peculiar. (7)
22. The number of reincarnations of a drunken cat? (3,4,3,5)

25. Learners kiss wrongly but achieve talents. (6)
26. Paid cent for description of over-careful intellectual. (8)
27. "Brought down!" added Reg brokenly. (8)
28. This magazine to make a record? That's a laugh! (5)

CLUES DOWN

2. Safety-ropes for one who reads palms? (4-5)
3. Spirit force comes from the hottest part of the fire with a little boy. (9)
4. Act the wise-man; give the right amount of drug. (6)
5. Dervish whirling endlessly for music-man. (5)
6. Zodiacal nipper. (7)
7. Another Ed. has now left and is elsewhere. (3,4)
8. Simpering fairy-hearted. (4)
12. Drink the the Frnech dog. (3,2)
14. The Queen goes up in age - Yes? (5)
16. Comes to bits and turns into laces. (9)
17. Disturbed shade with gruesome longing. (5-4)
18. Brought to a higher state (or a used state?) (7)
19. Making shoes more healthy? (7)
21. Put Sid roughly at the bottom of the class. (6)
23. Unwell in the museum house. (5)
24. Finishes what's left. (4)



ALPHA PREMONITIONS BUREAU

ALPHA is conducting a one-year pilot study of premonitions and would like to hear from anyone who feels that he or she has had a glimpse of a future event which has not yet taken place. (Please do not send reports of past premonitions that have been fulfilled.)

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If you have had such a premonition, or know someone who has, please contact

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CONFERENCE REPORT

THE Society for Psychical Research held its third annual conference in Edinburgh in April. This feature highlights some of the papers presented at the conference, held at Edinburgh University (April 2-4). A fuller report will appear in the SPR's September *Journal*.

ESP and children. Are children more psychic than adults? If so, is there a stronger psychic link between children and their mothers than between children and unrelated adults? Hilary Henegan, a post-graduate student at Edinburgh University's Department of Psychology, has been investigating such possibilities but has come up with no significant results. Sue Blackmore of Surrey University has also drawn a blank in her search for ESP in children, using colour guessing tests.

Long-distance ESP. An attempt to send 10 pictures by ESP from Austria to Iceland was made on October 8, 1977. The experiment appeared to be a flop. But Michael Thalbourne, of the Department of Psychology at Edinburgh University, carried out a statistical analysis which used a preferential matching method to search for evidence that ESP was functioning but was being deliberately (but subconsciously) interfered with. And that is what he apparently found, for there was a significant change in the rate of scoring with time, which was in line with two out of four previous studies.

Perception tests. Research using the Ganzfeld sensory deprivation technique has been carried out by Serena Roney-Dougal, of the Psychology Department at London's City University, to study subliminal and extra-sensory perception. Ten subjects were provided with both telepathic and subliminal stimuli. Though no evidence of psychic activity was discovered at a cognitive level, there was a distinct correlation in



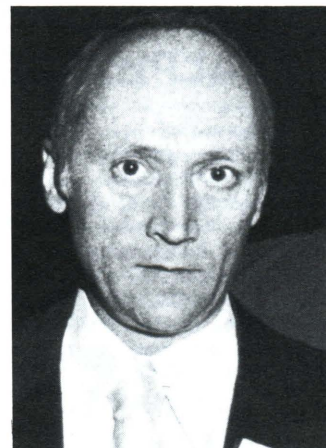
Searching for ESP in children but without success: Hilary Henegan and Sue Blackmore.



Serena Roney-Dougal is using the Ganzfeld technique in ESP research.

response to stimuli compared with attitude and openness among the subjects. This discovery could lead to an understanding of the characteristics that make a person most receptive to stimuli beyond conscious awareness.

ESP indicator. Earlier conferences had heard of work which indicated



Dr T. Kojic reported on Kirlian research in a Yugoslavian hospital.

that the defence mechanism test, used by psychologists for a variety of purposes, was also a reliable indicator of ESP performance. An evaluation of 37 subjects carried out by Dr Martin Johnson and Dr Erlandur Haraldsson in March 1977 yielded positive results. When a second study was carried out under almost identical conditions

six months later, however, the results were no higher than chance. Professor Johnson, of the University of Utrecht, said that although this did not invalidate the earlier findings, it does indicate that the DMT test is not a sensitive enough means of ESP testing.

Blindfold vision. Two young Danish researchers, Kaare Claudewitz and Lucjan Piontkowski, have conducted a thorough examination of dermo-optical perception: the claim that some people, when blindfolded, can read or distinguish colours with their fingers or other parts of their anatomy. They pointed out that as far as they could tell none of the research with Rosa Kuleshova, the famous Russian blindfold reader, adequately prevented her from seeing normally. They were satisfied, after tests with blind and sighted people, "that claims to read type or print must be treated as suspect." It was due either to fraud or to ESP, but not to a dermo-optical ability.

Kirlian photography. A team of four Yugoslavian researchers, from the Dr Laza K. Lazarevic Hospital, presented their findings on analysis of electro-photography with different patients. Dr T. Kojic, who acted as spokesman, reported that Kirlian photographs of schizophrenics produced specific, identifiable effects. He also said they had discovered that there was a removal of energy barriers between those who loved each other, when Kirlian pictures of their fingers were taken side by side. Their apparatus also recorded a lightning effect on the fingers of people who were erotically exciting each other.

FOOTNOTE: A fascinating account of ESP work using the Ganzfeld technique was given by Cambridge University researcher Dr Carl Sargent. This will be the subject of a feature in a future issue.



Dr Erlandur Haraldsson (Iceland), Prof Martin Johnson (Holland) and Michael Thalbourne (Edinburgh) relax between sessions.



Motorcycle goggles and other aids were used by Kaare Claudewitz (left) and Lucjan Piontkowski in their blindfold vision research.

REVIEW

Magician says TV film proves the Elizaldes are frauds

Elizaldes

ARE the husband-and-wife psychic surgery team, the Elizaldes, frauds? That was the verdict of BBC TV's "Nationwide" programme which investigated their work and filmed their bloody operations (see *Alpha* No. 3).

David Elizalde is a Filipino and his wife, Helen, is a London-born Cypriot. They live in Australia and were not known in Britain for their special healing powers before the Spiritualists' National Union decided to bring them over to treat the sick.

Like other psychic surgeons, they claim that they can open up bodies with their bare hands, remove diseased matter or growths, and then cause the wound to heal instantly, leaving no scar. If genuine, it is one of the most impressive demonstrations of psychic power. But the Elizaldes' performance has given rise to grave doubts—as, indeed, has the work of other psychic surgeons in the past.

The "Nationwide" film looked impressive, but when James Randi, the American conjurer, examined it frame by frame, he was able to point to very suspicious actions by the Elizaldes. Helen, for example, was seen massaging and kneading the stomach of a woman patient. Her husband then appeared from behind a curtain and took a bowl of water from a nurse who was assisting. Randi drew attention to David's right hand which was held "exactly as a conjurer would if he had something concealed in his hand."

David Elizalde then handed the bowl back to the nurse and immediately plunged his hands into the patient's stomach area, putting the right hand behind Helen's, and using the left to shield the action.

Why, Randi asked, does he have to put his hands on the patient when it is his wife who is doing the operation? One obvious answer, if fraud is taking place, is that he does so in order to pass something to her; something that will produce blood and tissue. Sure enough, it is not until he has made this suspicious move that blood appears.

"It comes out in a big spurt," Randi observed. "She has a hard time to puncture the little con-

tainer." Helen, incidentally, has long pointed fingernails.

The conjurer also discussed an operation on the back of a patient's neck. David Elizalde performed the "surgery" and Randi pointed out that the hand that was to "enter" the patient was held in a most unnatural way, as if to conceal something, and once again the left hand acted as a shield.

"It's a good piece of film and we have the proof right here," said Randi. "This finger here, watch as he puts it in. It goes down and simply curls around. It's supposed to look as if it's penetrating right down into the neck and it doesn't give that illusion at all."

Just as damning was the evidence of Dr Patrick Lincoln, Department of Forensic Medicine, London Hospital. When the Elizaldes operated on Gordon Higginson, president of the Spiritualists' National Union, two members of the "Nationwide" team were present and assisted—though the psychic surgeons did not know who they were.

One of them held the bowl into which bloodstained cotton wool and clots were dropped and he was able to remove a clot in a handkerchief. Dr Lincoln found that the blood was not human, but pig's blood. He came to the same conclusion about the blood on Higginson's underpants, which were sent to the TV team later. Forensic tests on the blood-spattered clothing of another patient, Philip Towner, carried out a year earlier, also showed traces of pig's blood.

When confronted with this evidence, Higginson refused to believe it. "I think this is just put up," he said blandly. "I think that they (the forensic experts) are telling an untruth. I *know* that it is genuine."

Helen Elizaldes commented: "Well, I think that's very strange although I have heard that the structure of the blood does change."

"Nationwide" had no hesitation in branding the Elizaldes "frauds and liars". It invited them to take BBC TV to court if they disputed this. Neither the Elizaldes nor the SNU have done so. "Nationwide" reporter Roger Cook ended his investigation with the comment that the Elizaldes were about to embark on a tour of Britain.

"At the very least, the SNU should cancel the tour and stop the Elizaldes making mockery of them and a tragedy out of their patients." The union did not do so, though Edinburgh Spiritualists who were to receive psychic surgery from them in that city decided to cancel their visit.

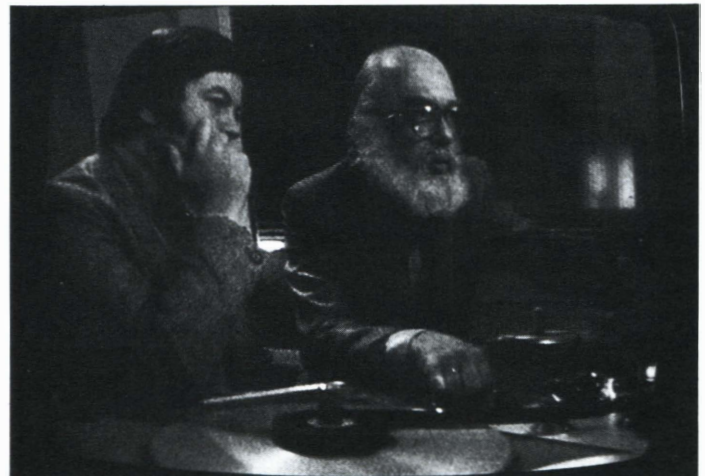
Not everyone, of course, is convinced that they are frauds. And



This is how the television film showed David Elizalde holding a bowl suspiciously while wife Helen "operates" on a patient.



Close up of a growth-like object being removed from a pool of blood.



Magician James Randi (right) examines the film frame by frame with TV reporter Roger Cook.

from where did they get the blood and tissue to fake up to 150 operations (at £10 a time) a day? If the SNU had listened to critics and arranged simple methods of control, such questions would not need to be asked.

Hopefully, if the SNU invites the Elizaldes back to Britain next year, it will insist that their work is carried out under the supervision of doctors, conjurers and film crews.



Confrontation between TV reporter, the Elizaldes and SNU president Gordon Higginson.

BOOKS

THE WORLD ATLAS OF MYSTERIES

by Francis Hitching
Collins, £6.50

THE title of this fascinating, illustrated book is misleading for it suggests an analysis of strange events and phenomena on a world-wide or regional basis. Although such treatment is given to some of the topics discussed, the location is often immaterial and the maps merely serve to remind us where certain places are.

For example, a discussion of "the gravity enigma" is illustrated with a drawing of famous Victorian medium Daniel Dunglas Hume levitating to the ceiling before astonished eye-witnesses, and a world map showing 20 places where similar levitations have occurred over the centuries. There is no suggestion that their geographical position has any relevance to the phenomenon and the map is used merely to demonstrate that "the ability to levitate has been widespread."

It struck me that the atlas concept may well have been a publishing inspiration that came about after the book was written, in an attempt to give its disparate contents some visual cohesion.

Nor do all the subjects discussed

really deserve to be called "mysteries". Hitching, for example, deals with continental drift, the death of the dinosaurs, Velikovsky's theories, the emergence of man, and migration. But there are truly mysterious subjects, like spontaneous human combustion, UFOs, ancient anomalies, monsters, and such like.

Where, I wondered, were ghosts and poltergeists? Surely they are mysteries that deserve a place alongside the others?

Still, it's a book that will give many readers a lot of enjoyment, written in a crisp, cautious style without being over-sceptical.

Roy Stemman

THE NEW SOVIET PSYCHIC DISCOVERIES

Henry Gris and William Dick
Souvenir Press, £5.50

An alleged and celebrated spirit communicator is reported to have complained during a sitting that transmitting information from the other side to this is like dictating across a thick frosted glass-panelled door to a very bad secretary. That is as may be, with respect to the next world, but something rather like it does apply to obtaining information about

what is currently happening in the Soviet Union as regards parapsychology.

It was easier some years ago when the late Professor Vasiliev's activities were for a brief period supported and even to some extent encouraged at the Institute for Brain Physiology at the University of Leningrad. He sent me copies of his book in Russian, I despatched to him typed sections of the translation, he corrected and returned them within a few days and answered queries by letter. This was the ordinary international scientific give-and-take expected in most fields.

However, parapsychology is not like that. It is felt to have ideological overtones, and accordingly official Soviet attitudes are apt to fluctuate and with them policies. Not so very long ago Eduard Naumov was in serious trouble as a result of his involvement with parapsychology, as were others such as Barbara Ivanova. Things seem to have improved somewhat, but the uncertainty of communication normally leaves one guessing just what is and is not being investigated, let alone with what degree of validity and reliability.

Unfortunately the report by Gris and Dick, two journalists who have made repeated trips to the Soviet Union for the *National Enquirer* newspaper, does not leave one very much wiser. They have certainly displayed energy and initiative in talking, or trying to talk, to well-known figures in the field of parapsychology and other fringe areas, and have conducted a lengthy if somewhat mystifying and tantalising telephone conversation with Viktor Inyushin.

"Happily for science", the mild-mannered Semyon Kirlian told them, "the latest equipment has been taken out of the hands of amateurs like myself and nowadays is supervised by such professionals as Dr. Viktor Inyushin". Inyushin is said to have a large team of workers and superb facilities in Alma-Ata, and to be making far-reaching but largely secret discoveries.

Drs Adamenko and Sergeyev are supposed to be perfecting quite remarkable devices. One picture carries the caption "Dr Genady Sergeyev shows Gris his model of a 'time machine' which, in its later stages, will be able to recover the emotions and thoughts of people long since dead." In short, it is hard to know just what is happening, what is being claimed, what has been established, and what is just being day-dreamed about.

The authors do not seem to make much of a distinction between stage performances and paranormal accomplishments in

other contexts. The feats of Tofik Dadashev, a stage mentalist, are said to have "baffled them all" in Prague at the Psychotronic Conference in 1973. If he was the young Russian who performed for us one evening (and from the photo I rather think he was) I can only say that what baffled this participant was how anyone could have imagined that his version of blind man's buff might have provided any evidence for paranormal cognition.

But it is good to know that there is some parapsychological activity going on in Russia, that morale seems high among those engaged in it, and that enterprising, persistent and intelligent journalists can establish contact with them. Some of the Russian contributions to the field have been among the best: let us hope there will be some more, and that we get to hear about them.

Anita Gregory

MINDPOWER

Nona Coxhead
Penguin Books 95p

There has been a remarkable upsurge of interest in MIND, during recent years both as an integral part of man himself and as a possible prime mover and essence of life. Nona Coxhead discusses many of the ways in which enquiries concerning the nature of mind and practical techniques for the application of mindpower are being carried out.

In nearly every part of the world, scientific research is being conducted into how and why mind works in relation to individual and collective man, and Nona Coxhead believes this work constitutes "unique history as well as a timely preparation for the profoundest evolutionary advances man has so far experienced."

The book is clearly laid-out. Chapter 1 discusses scientific implications of parapsychological investigations, including the pioneering work of Dr J. B. Rhine, the discoveries at the Maimonides Dream Laboratory, and Uri Geller's extraordinary abilities.

The techniques of altered states of consciousness, many of which are forms of deep psychological and physiological relaxation, are described in chapter two. Techniques such as the determination of skin resistance (ESR) and electroencephalography (EEG) make it possible to measure the bodily changes associated with various altered states of consciousness, and so to study them scientifically and reproduce them at will.

The author describes ancient and modern techniques of mind training such as yoga, Zen, transcendental meditation, Elmer Green's biofeedback training, the

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"mind-games" of Robert Masters and Jean Houston, and the Holistic Health training of Maxwell Cade and Dr Ann Woolley-Hart.

An attempt to put some order into the endless range of healing and alternative medicine is made in the third chapter. Spiritual healing, aura diagnosis, and the work of Edgar Cayce rub shoulders with acupuncture, yoga methods, and the psychic surgery of the Philippines. Surprisingly, no mention is made of homeopathy, herbalism or radionics. There is an interesting account of Kirlian photography.

Chapter 4 deals with the way in which science, parascience, religion and philosophy all have something to say about these new studies of the mind. Beginning with the work of Marcel Vogel and Cleve Backster on the effects of mind on plants, it goes on to discuss scientific hypotheses concerning the nature of mind, consciousness and psychic phenomena.

The work of Sir Alister Hardy's Religious Experience Research Unit is outlined, and interest, in the West, in the ancient Eastern spiritual teachings and mental techniques is discussed. The book then discusses modern attempts to get in touch with minds in other parts of the universe both by radio telescopes and space probes.

Finally, Nona Coxhead summarizes her findings and viewpoints. She believes that healing power will emerge as the greatest discovery of the 20th Century, and that the wider use of meditation and other forms of mind control could lead to a complete transformation of the world situation, with most of mankind accepting basic moral values.

This is a book which will make people think. Whether or not they agree with the author's aims, they will find it does bridge the gap between orthodox medicine and orthodox science on the one hand and alternative medicine and parascience on the other.

It also provides an extensive bibliography, and lists some 60 societies and organisations interested in various aspects of the material discussed. This book can really be recommended.

C. Maxwell Cade

A GUIDE TO ANCIENT SITES IN BRITAIN

Janet and Colin Bord
Paladin £2.50

THE Bords have already produced two useful, well-illustrated guides, *Mysterious Britain* and *The Secret Country*, and the current book is a useful adjunct to these.

They have divided the country into six sections — Northern

Ireland is not covered. As they explain in the introduction, this book is not intended to be a definitive guide, but a selection of the most significant and visually exciting monuments dating from prehistoric times.

The paperback format — the book is twice as wide as conventional paperbacks — provides sufficient room for photographs and useful sketch maps to put people on the right track. My only doubt is whether, given the use it deserves, it will stand up to the wear and tear of use in the field. One to two pages are devoted to each site, the emphasis being on photographic rather than verbal description.

As the authors say in the introduction, their selection is limited. For those who are bitten by the prehistoric bug, there are 1,000 megalithic tombs, up to 40,000 round barrows (in England alone), over 900 stone circles, around 3,000 hillforts and innumerable standing stones.

A great deal of uncertainty surrounds their use and purpose. But the irony is that many are being lost: barrows are being ploughed out, standing stones moved and earthworks destroyed. Buy this book and experience some of the more prominent prehistoric sites while there is still time.

David Harvey

GIANTS

Roy Norvill
The Aquarian Press, £4.95

This is a book for giant-lovers, giant-haters or giant-obsessives of any description. But it is not for those with just a passing interest in giants.

We are informed that Roy Norvill's canvas is a wide and exciting one, as he sets out to discover whether gargantuan-size man ever existed, where he came from and where he went. Unfortunately, the copy is not as wide and exciting as the canvas.

Giants is a canter, at breathtaking speed, through all accounts of all giants ever sighted anywhere in the world. We zoom through the lands of the Bible, Ancient Greece, the Old World, the New World, veering through North America, Mexico, Malaysia, Lebanon, Peru, Britain and countless other countries en route.

For each place, the author provides the local giant lore, plus numbers, dates and measurements of any earthworks or ancient sites that the giants might have been responsible for constructing. He weaves in water divining, force lines, ley lines, astronomy and astrology to make his case that giants were possessed of some secret superior knowledge.

Unfortunately, he lost me very

early on, in fact, as soon as I realised I was reading a kind of catalogue rather than a colourful piece of prose. My attention was most seized by the side issues, such as the stories of pituitary giants, modern-day humans whose size is attributable to abnormal hormone action; and the fate of the researchers who were installed at the foot of the volcano, Mount Pele, in Martinique to investigate why, after its devastating eruption at the turn of the century, plants and animals that reappeared were of supernormal size.

During their investigations, the research director and his assistant themselves both grew two inches. It seemed that radiation from certain materials thrown up by the explosion was responsible for affecting all forms of life. And other researchers now confirm that high frequency radiation is a prime factor in the cause of gigantism.

But this is, of course, all by the way and not central to the thrust of the book at all. Any assessment of the mass of data and hypotheses put forward by the author to show that giants existed all over the world and were highly intelligent men I must leave to giant-enthusiasts. They, I am sure, will find value and a wealth of useful information in this book and I admire the painstaking work that must have gone into its construction.

But, as for me, with my mere passing interest in giants — well, the interest has definitely passed.

Denise Winn

YOU CANNOT DIE

by Ian Currie
Hamlyn, £4.95

AS ONE might expect from such a positive title, the author is convinced that there is life after death and he has crammed into its pages "the incredible findings of a century of research on death" to support his case.

He covers a lot of ground and has carried out extensive research of literature which is directly or indirectly related to after-death phenomena or experiences, coming up with a wealth of impressive case histories.

The purpose seems to be to comfort us with the knowledge that we survive death and Mr Currie's view of the next life seems to be in line with Spiritualism's philosophy. But I'm not sure readers will find his arguments convincing or his case histories always comforting.

For example, he tells the story of two Australian tourists who stayed in an old farm house in Waresley, England, in July 1965. During her first night in the house, one of the women, a Mrs Herbert, who was strongly psychic, saw a fair-haired boy kneeling by her bed and had

the impression that he wanted her to call "Mummy".

When the visitor spoke about the experience to Miss Margaret Minney, who had lived in the house all her life, she recognised the child as her brother, Johnnie, who had died an agonizing death from meningitis 45 years earlier.

The author comments: "This poor little boy, who died in 1921, has been in the house ever since, still transfixed in his death agony, still trying in vain to call for his mother!"

He jumps to such unjustified conclusions throughout the book. Death would seem to be exceptionally cruel if it should cause a child to be tortured in such a way. Yet the author does not consider the much more likely explanation that the psychic visitor was merely picking up the impression of a past traumatic event.

Elsewhere he either ignores or deals inadequately with the numerous anomalies and contradictions that are to be found in reports of ghosts and apparitions: cases which for the most part do not fit into his very convenient view of the after-life.

But the book is well worth a read, because of its scope and the number of cases quoted, many of recent origin. My hope is that its readers will not be over-impressed with the author's infectious optimism.

Roy Stemma

Do you need a reply?

We would like to thank all those readers who have written to comment on the first issues of *Alpha*. Many of the letters contained congratulations, constructive criticism and contributions (a selection of readers' letters appears on Page 31). It is not possible to send a personal acknowledgement to each writer. But every letter is read and its contents noted. Those readers who do want a reply, however, are asked to send a stamped addressed envelope.

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LETTERS

UFO explained

I WOULD like to comment on the 1953 Rapid City UFO sightings (*Alpha* No. 2). Far from there being "no official explanation", this incident – which was reviewed by the University of Colorado Project – was investigated by Dr J Allen Hynek, then Project Blue Book's astronomical consultant.

He concluded that the visual sightings were explainable as stars seen through a temperature inversion layer in the atmosphere, and the GCI radar traces as ghost echoes – the "solid target" in the second F84's gunsight radar was reported by the pilot as being due to equipment malfunction.

Also, a small riposte to the Klass/Sheaffer view that the McMinnville, Oregon, photos were taken in the early morning rather than evening. Hartmann, whose photo analysis conclusion you quote, also stated that "den-

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sitometry of the original negatives shows that the sky itself is brighter toward the west . . ." (CUP, Case 46).

That aside, congratulations on a really interesting magazine, especially to Hilary Evans for his thoughtful article.

M. Dymond, Montrose, Angus, Scotland.

No interpreter needed

I lay under the hot African sun and picked up the first issue of *Alpha*. I could hear Africans singing and beating their drums as they held a religious meeting on the koppies (hills) nearby while a rhythmic thumping came from the African servant's quarters next door, where my neighbour's part-time servant/witchdoctor crushed herbs, roots and things best not described to make muti (medicine).

It occurred to me that the natives here, despite working in offices and factories, are still so close to their pristine state that they could probably tell me more about the paranormal than *Alpha*. But I don't need an interpreter for *Alpha*. It's clear, simple and to the

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RESEARCHER wishes to hear of personal experiences involving ESP/dream telepathy in sexual situations (anonymously if preferred). Box 101.

UFO propulsion. Scientific evidence. "Piece for a Jigsaw" by Leonard Cramp. £5.95. Hiltons, 9 West Hill, Dartford, Kent.

point.

Congratulations on a great first issue. There is no doubt in my mind that you have a winner. *Alpha* has variety, which is just what one would expect but never gets from other magazines on this fascinating subject.

Richard Stewart, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

Unbiased

I WOULD like to congratulate you on producing not only a magazine of broad interest concerning parapsychological phenomena, but for the total lack of bias towards any subject relating to psi.

David Murrell, Evesham, Worcestershire.

Well-balanced

CONGRATULATIONS on the production of a very well-balanced magazine. The open-minded, inquiring attitude is very important. Your magazine could play an essential role, co-ordinating research work and passing information for the many small groups of psychic researchers.

Mrs M. Clare, B Sc, PhD, Wales, Sheffield, S31 8RW

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More praise

I MUST congratulate you and every one of your staff working on the publishing of *Alpha* for producing such a super magazine. It is a magazine which is very much to the point, providing facts, whereas some books on the paranormal are spurious. Carry on with the good work. I hope to enjoy every other copy of *Alpha* as I have the first. Miss A. Philpott, Stanmore, Winchester, Hants.

Between lives

THE feature on hypnotic regression (*Alpha* No. 2) was fantastic. I am interested to know if it is possible to regress someone back to their very first life, or before. And also, can a person be regressed to the period between their death in one life and their birth in the next? G. Sullivan, Crowthorne, Berks.

Difficult task

ALTHOUGH I believe *Alpha* strikes just the right note, I also think it is extraordinarily difficult to do so. The reason is a psychological one. On the one hand there are the hardened scorp-

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LETTERS

tics: those who want scientific proof. Then there are the theologically-minded people who go to town on their "faith". These are the "leaners", who lean heavily on their religion. Satisfying them both is not easy.

Edward Dade, *Swiss Cottage, London, NW6.*

Be fair to Elizaldes

FROM the first editions of *Alpha* it can be said that your attitude to the paranormal is, on the whole, open-minded and fair. I was, therefore, disappointed to read in Issue 3 that you have as good as accepted the judgment of the Elizaldes as frauds.

If you sought more information about what went on at Stansted Hall, both whilst the Nationwide team were there and at other times during the psychic surgeons' visit, and contacted witnesses and patients who underwent surgery, a fairer case could be reported in your magazine.

During May and June *Psychic News* reported facts on the Elizaldes and their mediumship,

not mentioned in the Nationwide programme, that show a different picture, and also corrected wrong information given in the programme. Please be fair about this. *Susan Keil, Hockley, Essex.*

The peer and the pole

I HAVE often searched for a serious magazine which deals with the paranormal in a sensible and cautious manner. Having read *Alpha* No. 2 I welcome your publication as the first that "fits the bill". But I do feel that some criticisms are called for.

In your feature "Peering into the unknown" perhaps you could have mentioned that the 8th Earl of Clancarty actively promotes the theory that most UFOs come from a hole in the Earth in the vicinity of the North Pole and are manned by a race of subterraneans.

Current geological knowledge surely dismisses this theory as nonsense and, whilst not necessarily strictly relevant to the feature, mention of it must affect the way in which people read it.

Further, although I have read and was most interested in Lyall

Watson's *Supernature*, one of the subjects dealt with by the book, the Philippine psychic surgeons, was rather severely examined by the BBC TV in, I think, 1977.

I do not believe that the surgeons successfully proved that their operations were genuine feats of the paranormal. I am not denying their healing value, only suggesting that this healing may be more psychological than physiological and that the removal of tumours with their bare hands may not actually happen.

Despite the above, I believe and hope that your magazine has a long and healthy future.

Robert Collins, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

Was Philip a spirit?

THE article "Philip: the man-made phantom" was certainly interesting (*Alpha* No. 2) but I cannot agree that the group "uncovered more mysteries than they solved", or that they "proved that there is no 'spirit' behind the communications; the messages are from the group subconscious."

I can see very little mystery in

the affair. It is significant that no results whatsoever were obtained until the most primitive method of communication was resorted to. Rapping, even more than the ouija board, attracts the very lowest form of entity, and levitation, which also occurred, is akin to poltergeist activity which again is due to spirits of a low order, often referred to as "mischievous".

It is surely obvious that one such spirit was attracted to this experiment and masqueraded as the fictional Philip who had been described in such detail.

Arnold Phelps, Welling, Kent DA16 3QZ.

Caused by hypnosis

CERTAIN items in the article "Turning on the inner light" (*Alpha* No. 3) caught my attention, namely: "I sat, facing her in a room dominated by the benign image of Baba. With my eyes open, I was asked to focus on the third eye area of her forehead . . . First, softly spoken words guided my attention to the subtler levels of consciousness."

Whether they appreciate the fact or not, this is a well-known techni-

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LETTERS

que for the induction (or first stage) of hypnosis, and my knowledge of the experiences of others with different forms of Yoga, as well as ante-natal relaxation classes, confirms this view.

If it achieves the desired effect then well and good, but let us be clear in our own minds as to the nature of this state of mind.

Dr Bernard A. Juby, MRCS, LRCP, MRCGP, Yardley, Birmingham B25 8SD.

Crank advertisers

ALPHA is an excellent magazine. I do hope you will not follow the example of some American magazines which are just a collection of off-beat and crank advertisements. This deters any serious reader of the paranormal from buying it.

J. Simpson, Whitley Bay, North Tyneside.

(The economics of magazine publishing encourage some publishers to take almost any advertisement in order to survive. Our policy, however, is to be very selective in our advertising content so that there is no conflict between editorial and advertising matter. It means, of course, that since we cannot expect much revenue from advertising, the cost of the magazine has to be relatively high.

Fence sitting

ALPHA is an excellent magazine, but it has one slight fault, which is common to all magazines of this type. Although it is written for those interested in the paranormal, there is always a "sitting on the fence" attitude. In other words, there is always enough to satisfy the *sceptics* in each article. Is that really necessary?

R. Lucas, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset BH15 4BL.

Incomplete

FOR THE sake of completeness your article "The Geller Effect" (ALPHA No.1) should have carried the following:

1) The *Jerusalem Post's* report (July 1971) in which Geller's "Legerdemain (was) ruled breach of contract" by a Beersheba Magistrates Court.

2) The *Birmingham Post & Mail's* 1974 experiments with Geller which failed to produce any positive results.

3) The last-minute cancellation

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of Geller's Birmingham Town Hall appearance (February 1974), leaving the entire audience – including the front row of Birmingham University scientists, members of the British Magical Society, and several incognito magicians) completely abandoned. A bomb scare was blamed, but if the public were prepared to face the danger, and the hall was not cleared, why was Geller not?

4) The *Daily Mirror* thought projection test from the top of Blackpool tower was very lax in its set-up. Geller himself was allowed to choose the target, and he chose, not un-naturally, a tree, since this is one of the four most commonly selected items chosen at random by the public!

Your news item (ALPHA, No.2) "Answering the Critics" quoted Francis Hitching's interim report on a survey of what are regarded as irrefutable proof of psychic powers occurring under perfectly controlled conditions. Puthoff and Targ's remote viewing experiments at Stanford Research Institute seemed the probable "winner".

It is interesting to note that the second series of experiments involving "100 target pictures of everyday objects drawn by an SRI artist and sealed by other SRI personnel in double envelopes, containing black cardboard"¹, which were then "divided randomly into groups of 20 for use in each of the three days' experiments", were probably the tightest-controlled and therefore the best of those several tests.

I quote: "On each of the three days of these experiments Geller passed . . . The drawings resulting from this experiment do not depart significantly from what would be expected by chance."¹

Dr Bernard A. Juby, Yardley, Birmingham B25 8SD.

¹"Information transmission under conditions of sensory shielding", Targ & Puthoff, *Nature* Vol 251, October 18 1974, P.604.

Justification

AS I see it, parapsychology is a science in the pangs of birth; and it is at such times that questions have to be asked, otherwise those who are investigating eventually find themselves going round in circles.

They need to look at the nature of reality (or realities) and man's relationship to the cosmos. Parapsychology seems to be rushing about trying to justify itself. But what justification does truth need? The very fact that there are phenomena to be investigated is sufficient justification.

Indeed, parapsychology seems to be one of the few subjects which

must ask positivist, rationalist Cartesian science to justify its methods, for its rules may simply be inadequate to deal with paranormal information.

Daniel Parry, Fareham, Hants

Inhibitions

It is good to see a magazine such as *Alpha* in which it appears that present long-term international research attitudes are fairly presented. One of these attitudes is the emerging understanding that the formal scientist is subject to psychological inhibition which actually obstructs development in parapsychology and parapsysics.

This formal obstruction, in the past, has been the direct cause of much distress and loss of progress by skilled and dedicated researchers. It is apparent that too-strong an adherence to formal and limiting terms of reference is, in itself, the cause of a dangerous psychological inhibition.

I, personally, experienced this inhibition caused by over-specialisation after some ten years of intense study and teaching in electronics and allied fields. Although I was a natural medium as a boy, I found that my sustained and narrow scientific studies were inhibiting the sense of reality – not the belief – in "transcendental" matters which I had once experienced, controlled with my own free will, and knew to be *real*.

Worse, the reality of not only the transcendental matters but also of everything else external to my own specialisation was slowly diminishing. Perhaps this is why so many academics remain child-like!

I immediately ceased intense study in physics, electronics, mathematics and other spheres and utilised special meditative practises to regain equilibrium in a world of reality much greater than any science. I have little doubt that the essential mechanism allowing controlled intuitive ability – the mystical process – lies in such aspects.

I wrote to Professor John Taylor shortly after the Uri Geller demonstration on the Dimbleby television show. I sat a few yards away from Dimbleby, Geller and Taylor at this demonstration and observed not only the physical phenomenon – which is by no means unique – but also the reactions of our "experts."

I must give credit to Taylor for his obvious sincerity and intellectual honesty – even if he was surprised by the "impossible" metal bending taking place before his very eyes. But, it was also self evident that the essential knowledge of neometaphysics, psychic science, parapsychology, parapsysics and other related

fields was not present.

I am certain, after a life-time's continuous work in these fields, as the head of an international research organisation and from confirmatory statements from many skilled sources, that Taylor has yet to face the possibility of conceptual inhibition (Metenoia) and that his expertise in physical science may well imply an inability to give reality to concepts beyond those of present-day physics.

Taylor seems to suggest that electro-magnetism *has* to be the root energy by which an explanation of parapsychological phenomena must derive. Indeed, this *may* be true. But, to what extent is electro-magnetism, as we now perceive it, a true statement of fundamental energy? We simply do not know.

Because we do not know we really must allow for the possibility that other more basic forms of energy might exist. This allowance does not have to be random; it can be based upon neometaphysical concepts and gain better definition by so doing. Why not postulate that in all Creation there can be only one free energy form: that which is multi-dimensional and, therefore, can manifest in any mode or time possible within an infinite field?

In this event, all other forms of energy that we as "physical-based" beings might find, are but variants and restraints of a higher form. I expect that the energy-type we call electro-magnetic is in fact the absolute mode modified not only by its manifestation and hence perception, through physical structures and functions, but also modified by the perceptual ability of the scientists. So we are back to psychological obstruction.

John J. Williamson, founder-president, Society of Metaphysicians, Archer's Court, Stonehenge Lane, The Ridge, Hastings, East Sussex.

What are Soviets doing?

THOUGH appreciating the excellence of the feature on the DIA report on Soviet psychic research, "Korchnoi's Complaint" (ALPHA No. 2), as a student and analyst of East European affairs I am inclined to see things somewhat differently.

I am sceptical about the apparent purposes or objectives of Soviet and Czechoslovakian parapsychological "research" in which both the CIA and DIA did have a professional interest. The whole Soviet bloc "psychic research" has another – and much less esoteric – objective than is generally thought.

F. Rubin, London, NW3.

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